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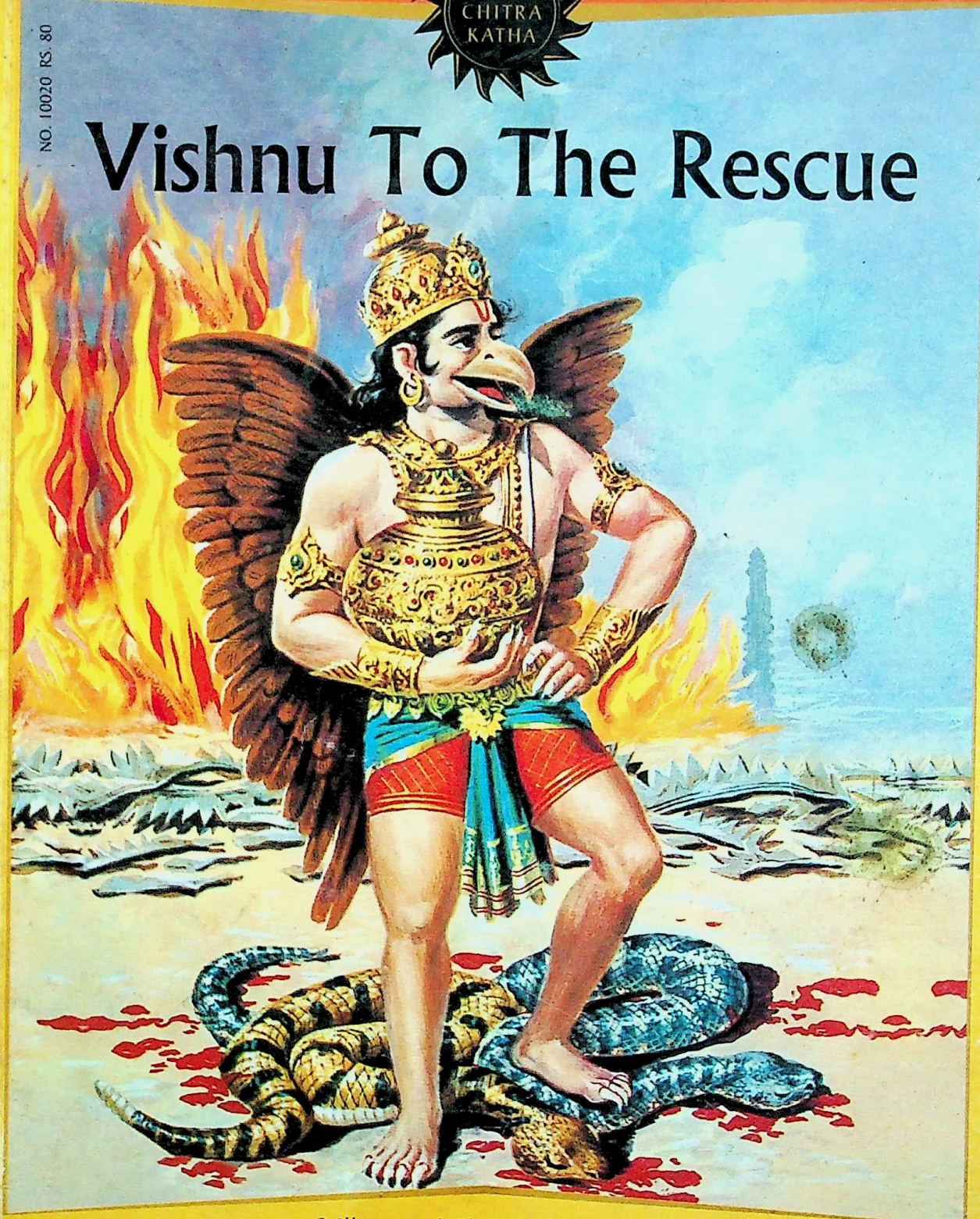
AMAR CHITRA KATHA

NO. 10020 RS. 80

Vishnu To The Rescue



3 Illustrated Classics from India

Garuda • Prahlad • The Churning of the Ocean

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Illustrated Classics From India

Garuda

Garuda is a divine, mythical bird that has been greatly venerated in India through the ages. His father, Sage Kashyap was the progenitor of the devas and asuras, and his mother Vinata was the daughter of Daksha.

Many indologists hold that this deity is of Dravidian origin. A stone flag-post, often covered with a metal plate with an image of Garuda on top, is invariably erected in front of the image of the presiding deity, Lord Vishnu, in all Vaishnavaite temples, as Garuda is considered to be one of the greatest devotees of Vishnu. During the Gupta age, which is referred to as the golden era of Indian history, the Imperial standard had an image of Garuda cast upon it. Garuda is represented as a large white-necked eagle, but his image in temples depicts him with a human trunk.

Serpents are the natural food of the eagle. The reason for this enmity is traced in the Adi Parva of the Mahabharata to the jealousy between Kadru and Vinata, the mother of the serpents and of Garuda respectively, and the two rival wives of Sage Kashyap. Only Vishnu could have these two born enemies – Garuda, the mighty eagle, and Shesha, the great serpent – wait upon him together. He uses Shesha as his couch and Garuda as his mount.

Editor: Anant Pai

Script: Kamala Chandrakant Illustrations: C. M. Vitankar Cover: C. M. Vitankar

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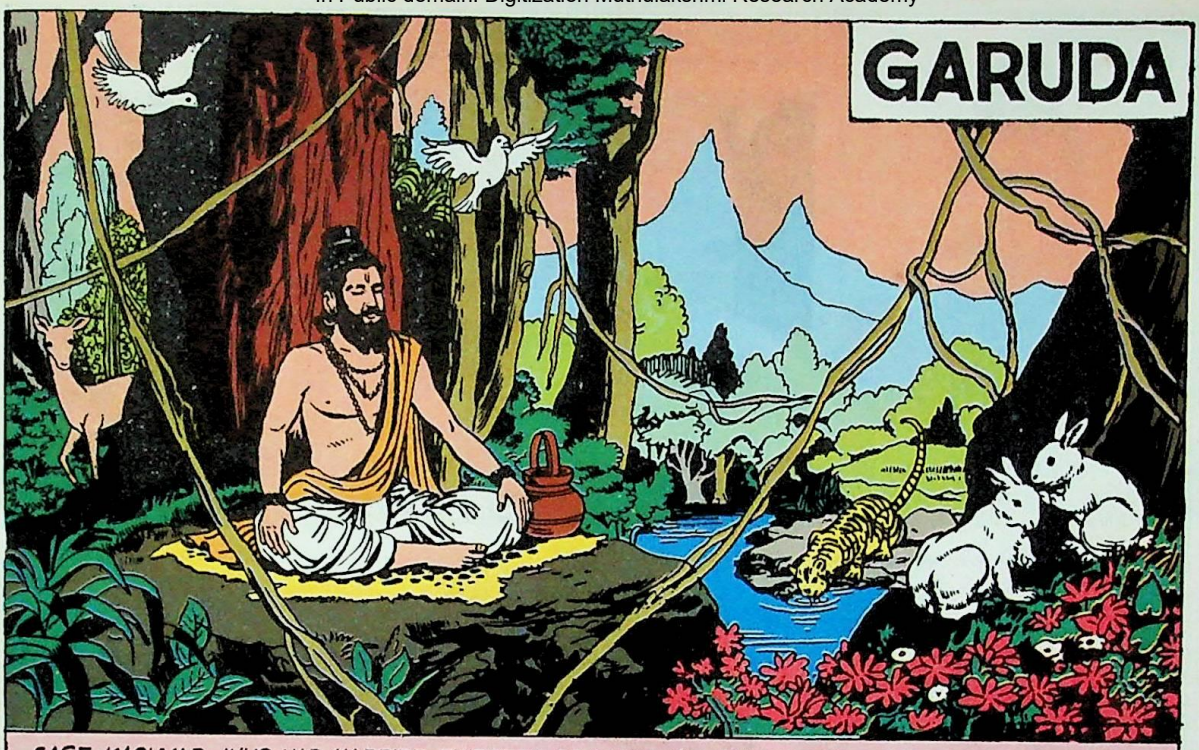
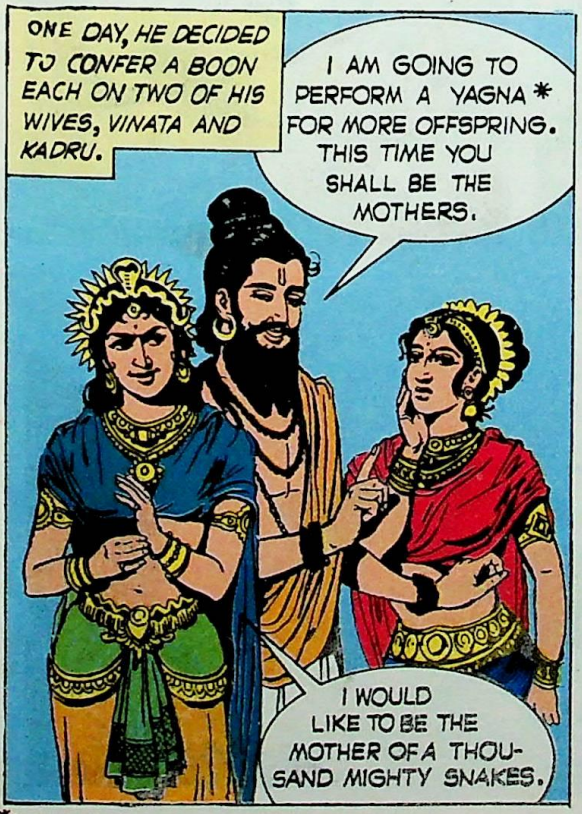
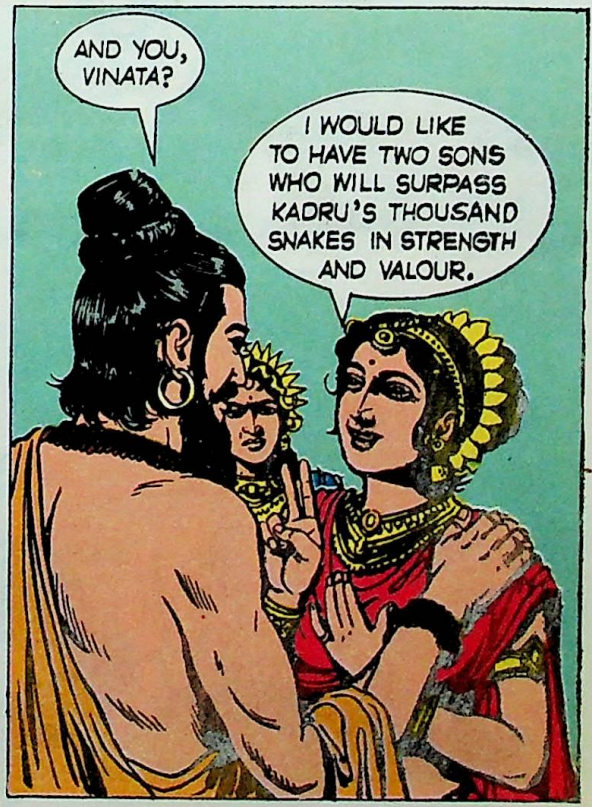
GARUDA



SAGE KASHYAP WHO HAD MARRIED THIRTEEN OF DAKSHA'S DAUGHTERS, WAS THE PROGENITOR OF THE DEVAS AND THE ASURAS, AND MUCH OF THE ANIMAL KINGDOM AS WELL.





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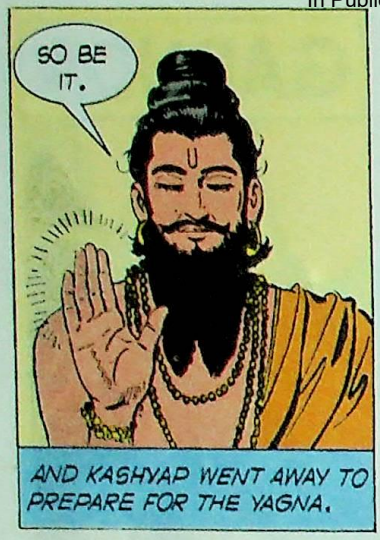

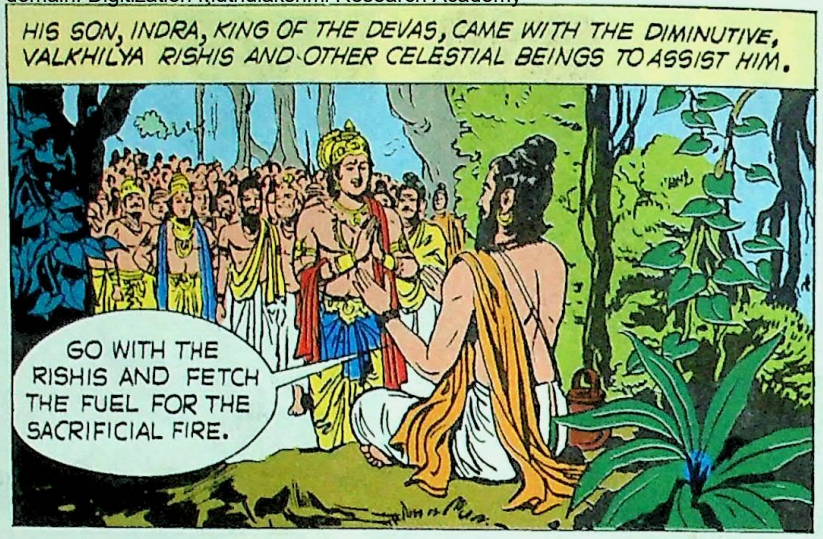

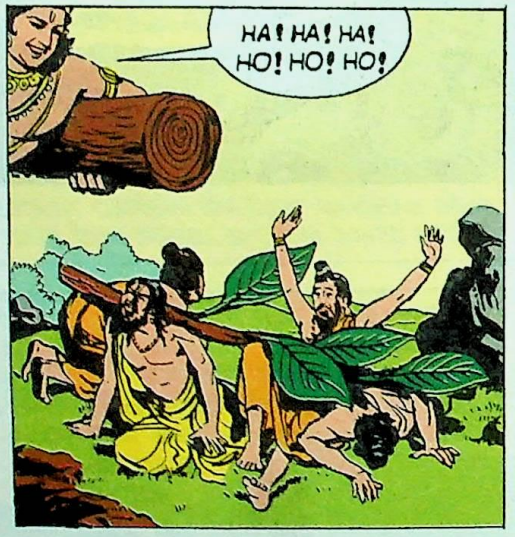

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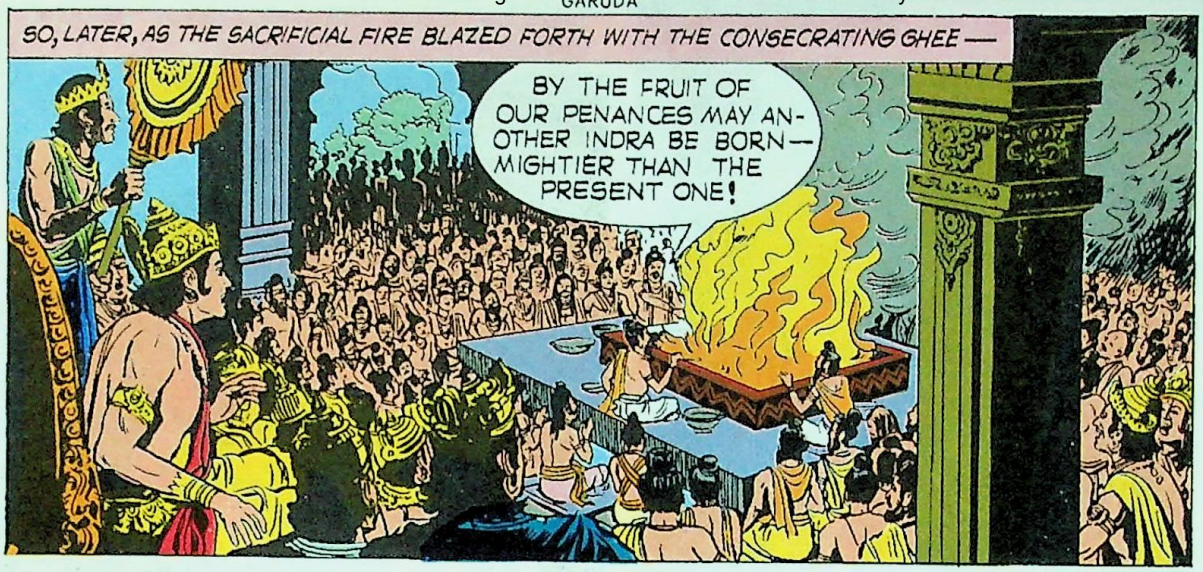

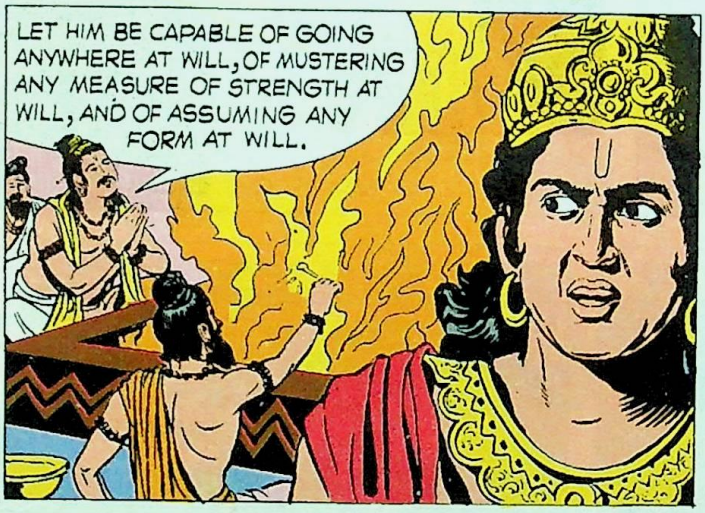

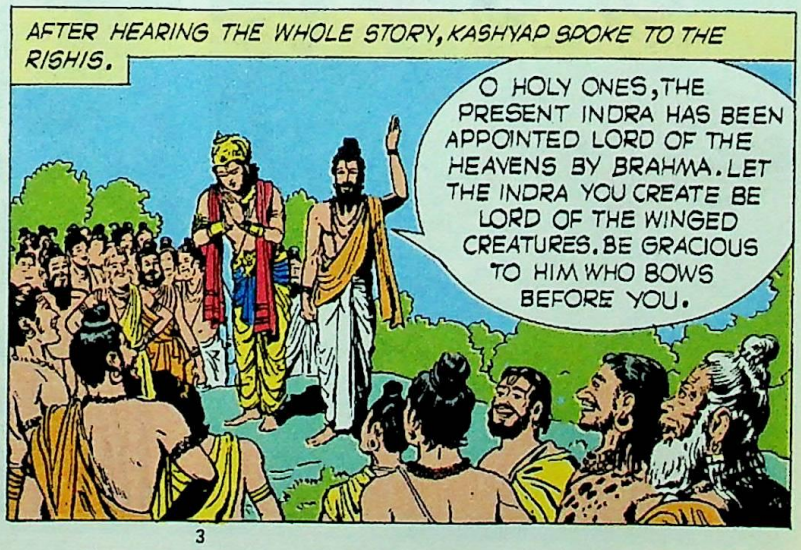

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THE RISHIS RELENTED.

SO BE IT. SINCE THIS YAGNA IS FOR OFFSPRING FOR YOU, ACCEPT THE FRUIT OF OUR ACTIONS.

WHEN THE YAGNA WAS OVER, KASHYAP RETURNED TO VINATA AND KADRU.

YOU SHALL SOON BE THE MOTHERS OF THE SONS YOU DESIRE.

AND KASHYAP RETURNED TO THE FOREST AND HIS MEDITATION.

MONTHS LATER, VINATA BROUGHT FORTH TWO EGGS AND KADRU, A THOUSAND.

LET US HAVE THEM INCUBATED SEPARATELY IN WARM VESSELS.

YEARS ROLLED BY. THE MOTHERS WAITED ANXIOUSLY FOR THE EGGS TO HATCH. THEN ONE DAY —

O VINATA, MY SONS HAVE BURST OPEN THEIR SHELLS! COME. SEE THEM.

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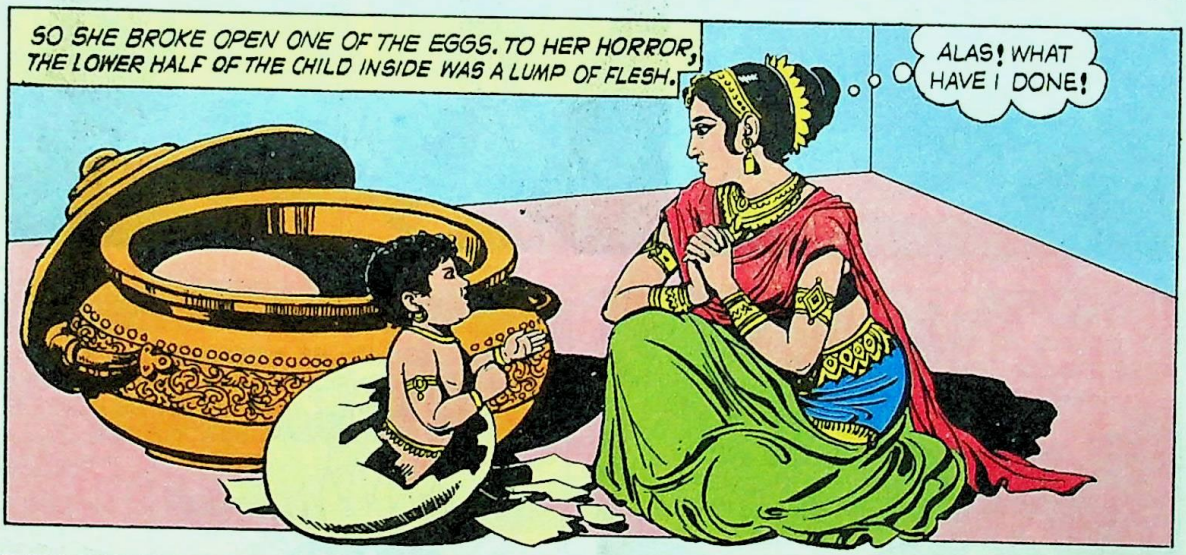

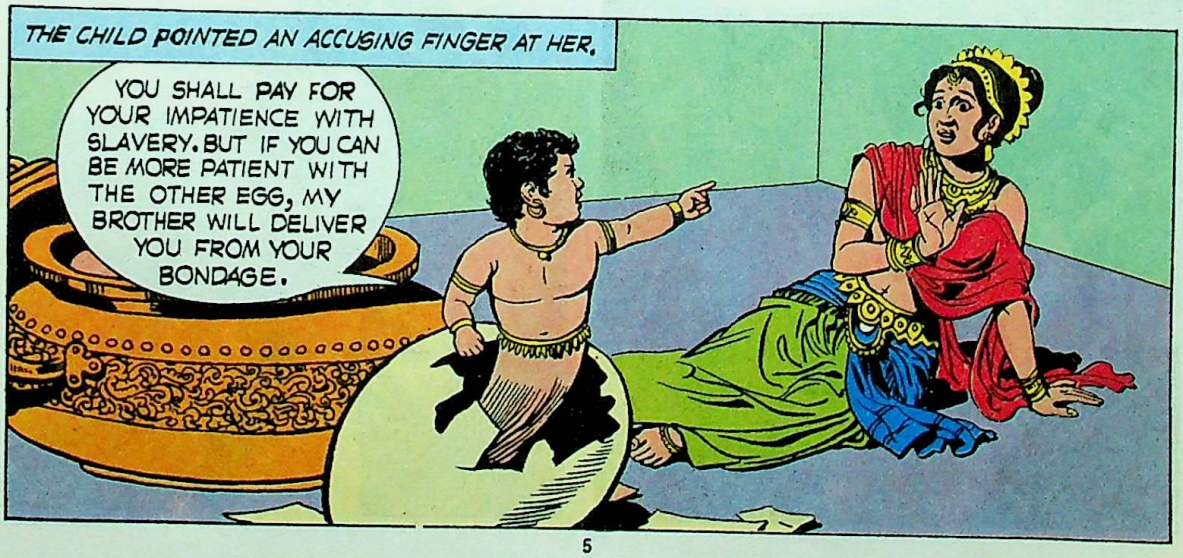

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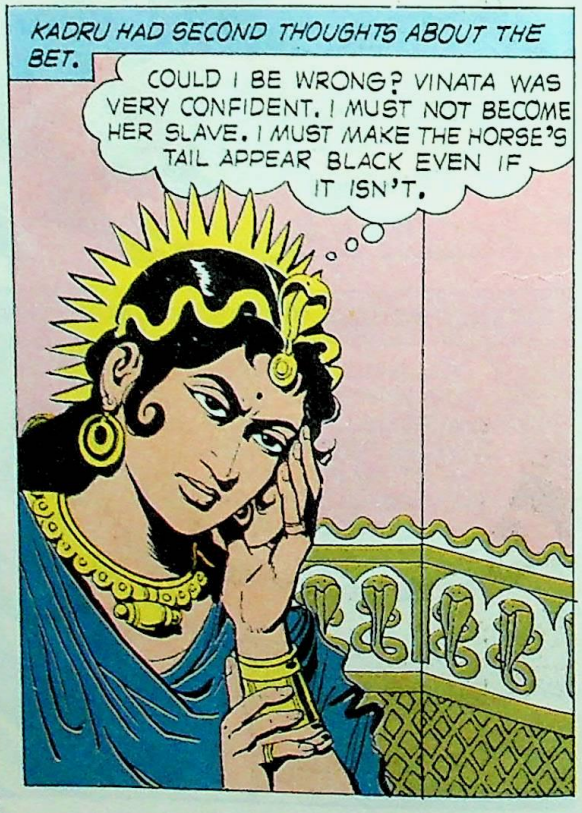

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WHEN THEY REACHED HOME, KADRU SENT FOR HER THOUSAND SONS.

GO, COVER THE TAIL OF THAT HORSE AND MAKE IT APPEAR BLACK. I MUST SAFE-GUARD MY FREEDOM.

WE'D BETTER OBEY OUR MOTHER.

IF WE DO, SHE MIGHT SHOW US SOME SPECIAL FAVOUR.

AND IF WE DON'T, SHE MIGHT BURN US ALL UP.

SO THEY SLITHERED OUT TO DO THEIR MOTHER'S BIDDING.

THE NEXT DAY, VINATA AND KADRU SET OUT TO SEE THE HORSE. ACROSS THE MIGHTY OCEAN THEY TRAVELLED...

...TO THE ABODE OF UCHCHAISHRAVA. THERE STOOD THE HORSE, SPOTLESSLY WHITE BUT...

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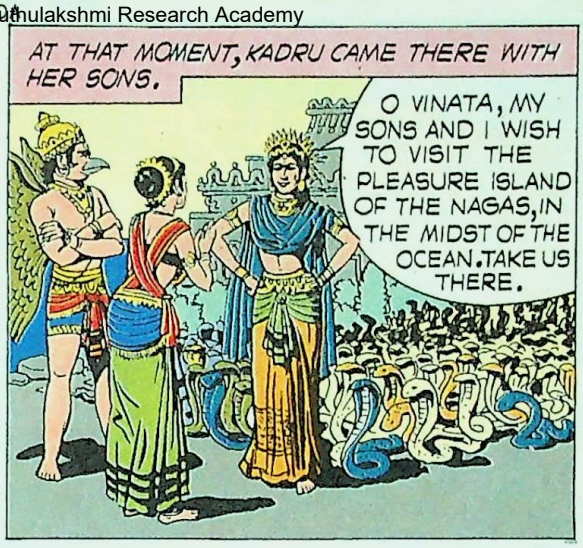

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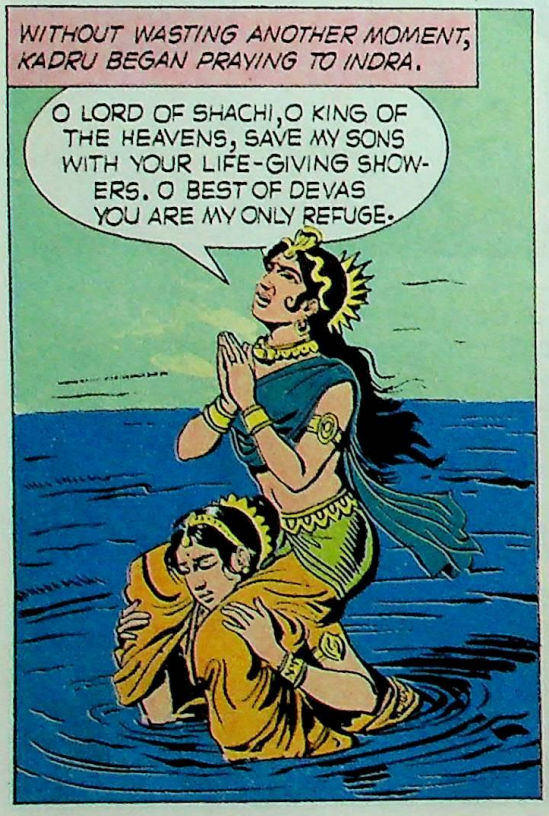

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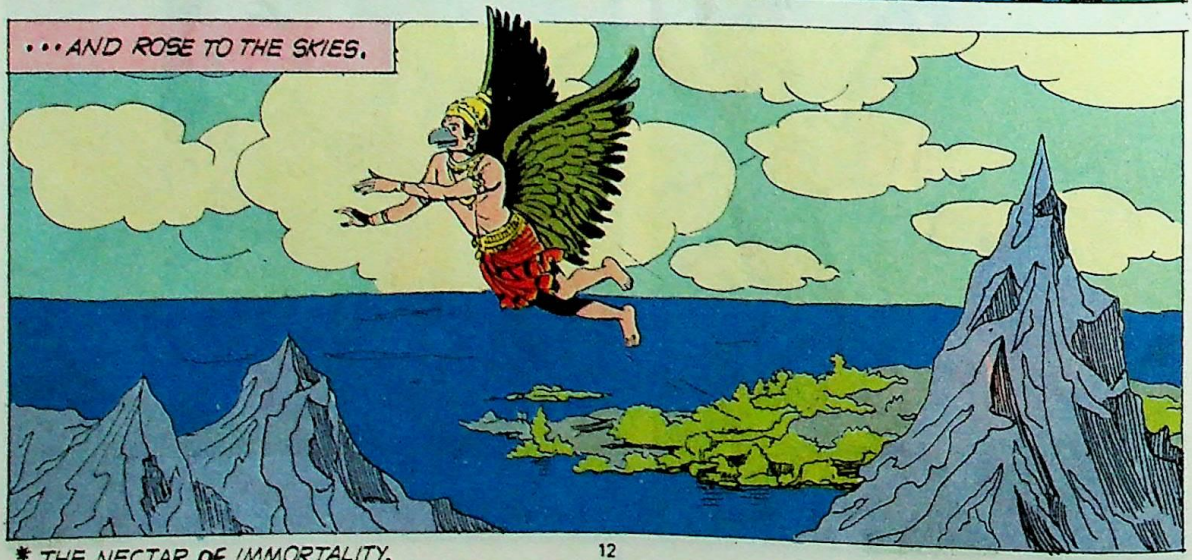

* THE NECTAR OF IMMORTALITY.

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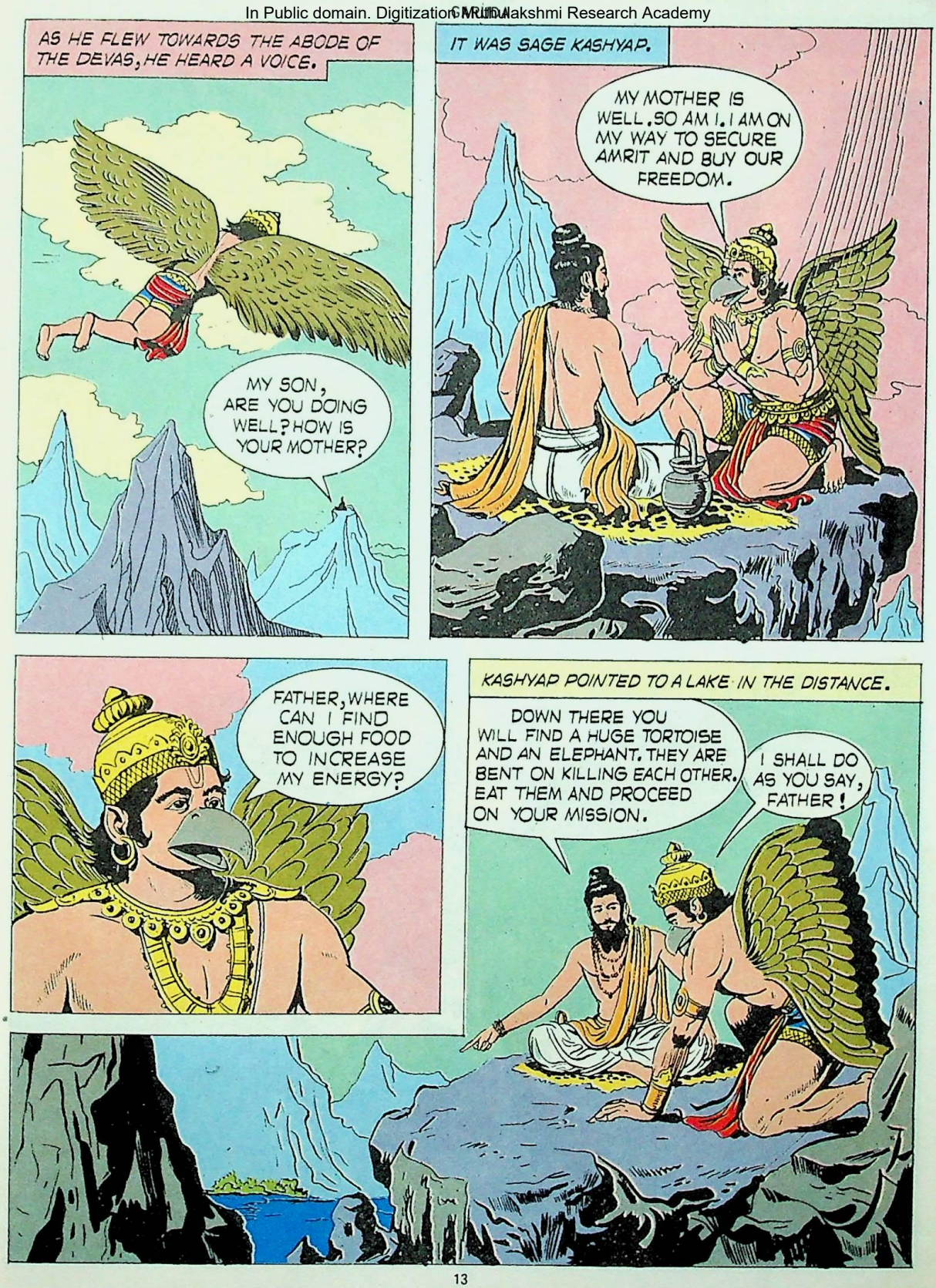

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AT LAST, HE SAW AN OLD BANYAN TREE ON THE SEASHORE. IT BECKONED TO HIM WITH ITS BRANCHES.

O GREAT BIRD, COME AND SIT ON THIS STRONG ARM OF MINE AND ENJOY YOUR FEAST.

BUT ALAS! THE MOMENT THE GREAT BIRD ALIGHTED ON THE BRANCH...

... IT TREMBLED AND BROKE. THE MIGHTY SON OF VINATA LOOKED DOWN.

WHY! THERE ARE SOME RISHIS HANGING FROM IT. THEY MUST NOT BE HARMED.

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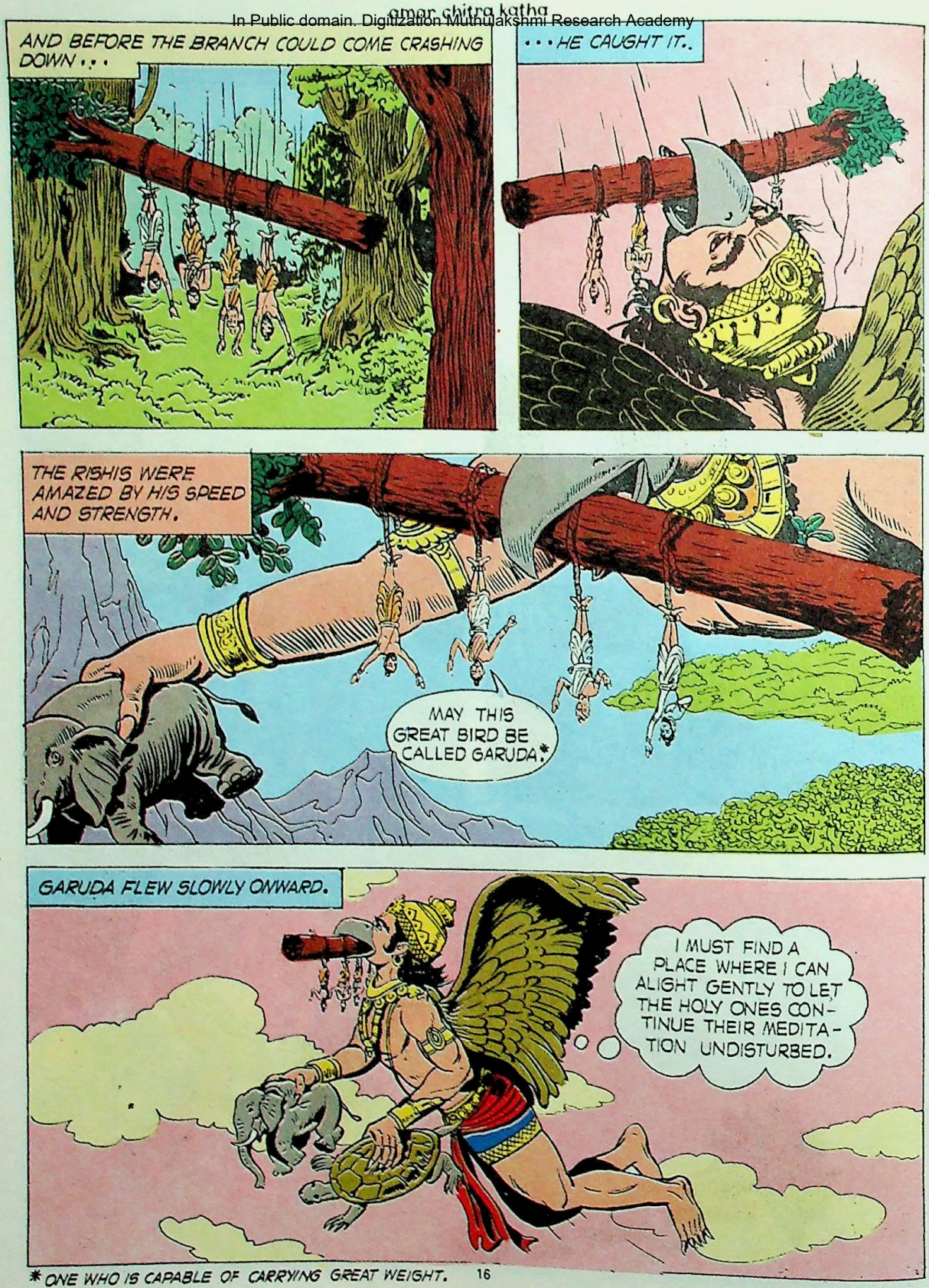

*ONE WHO IS CAPABLE OF CARRYING GREAT WEIGHT.

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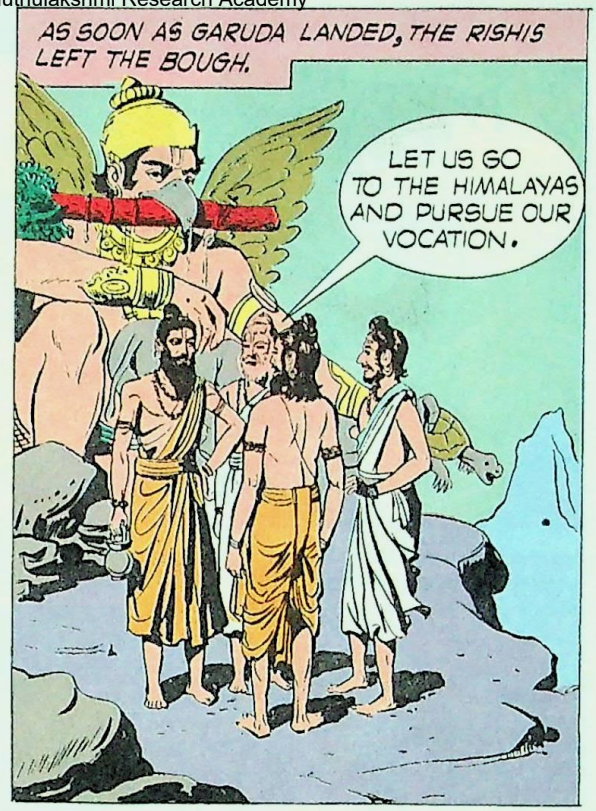

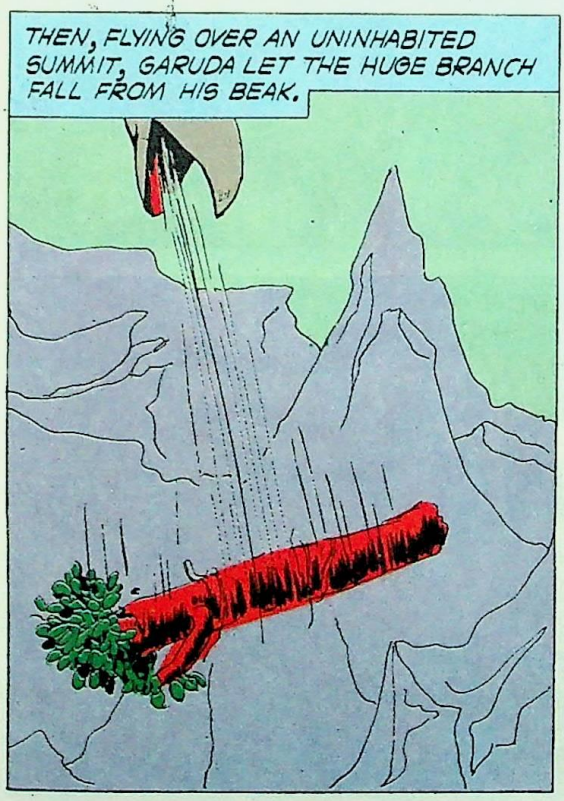

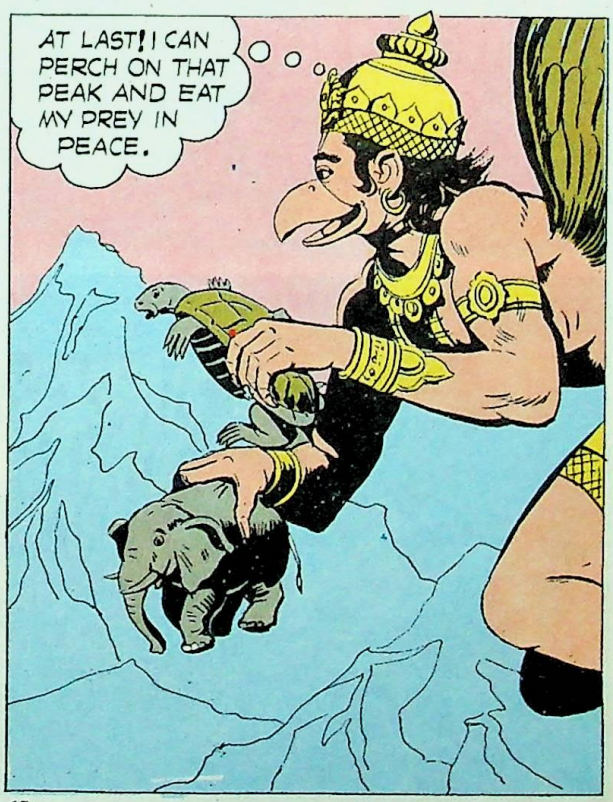

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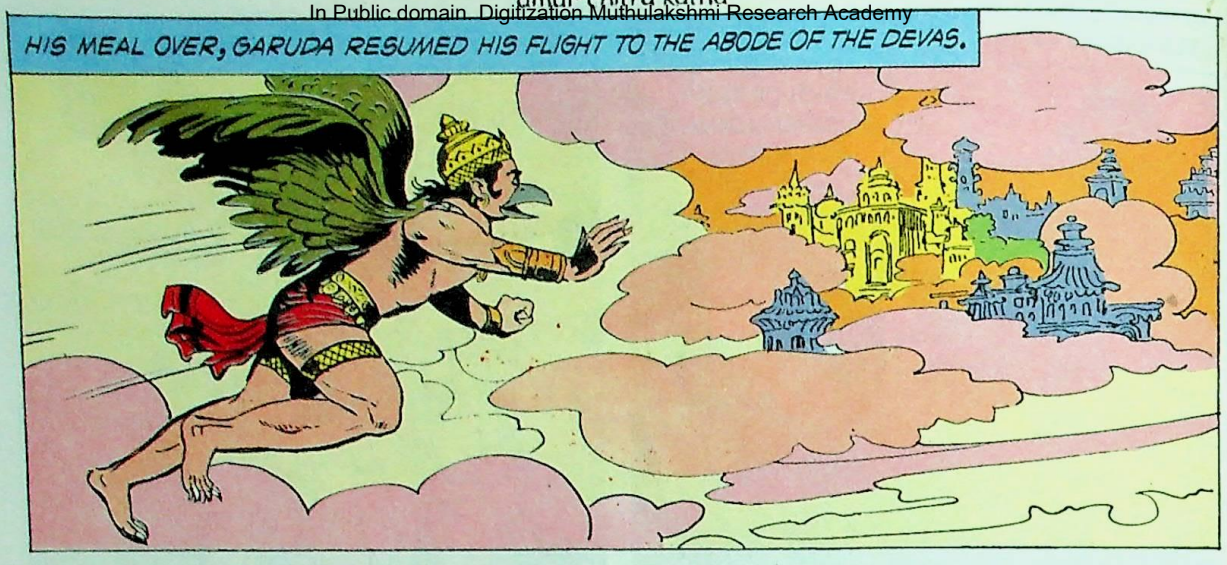

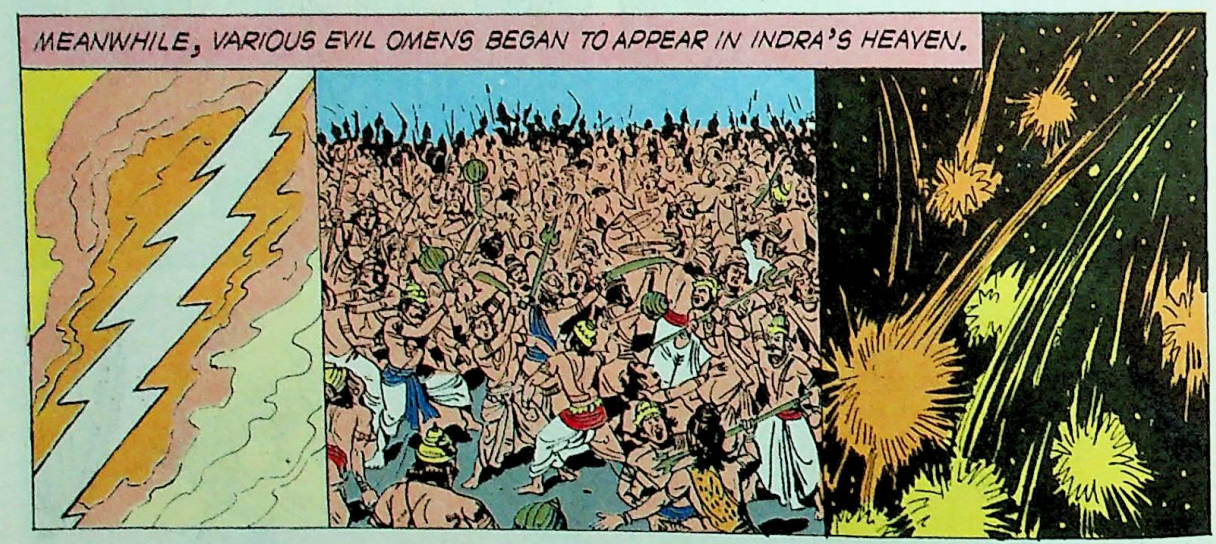

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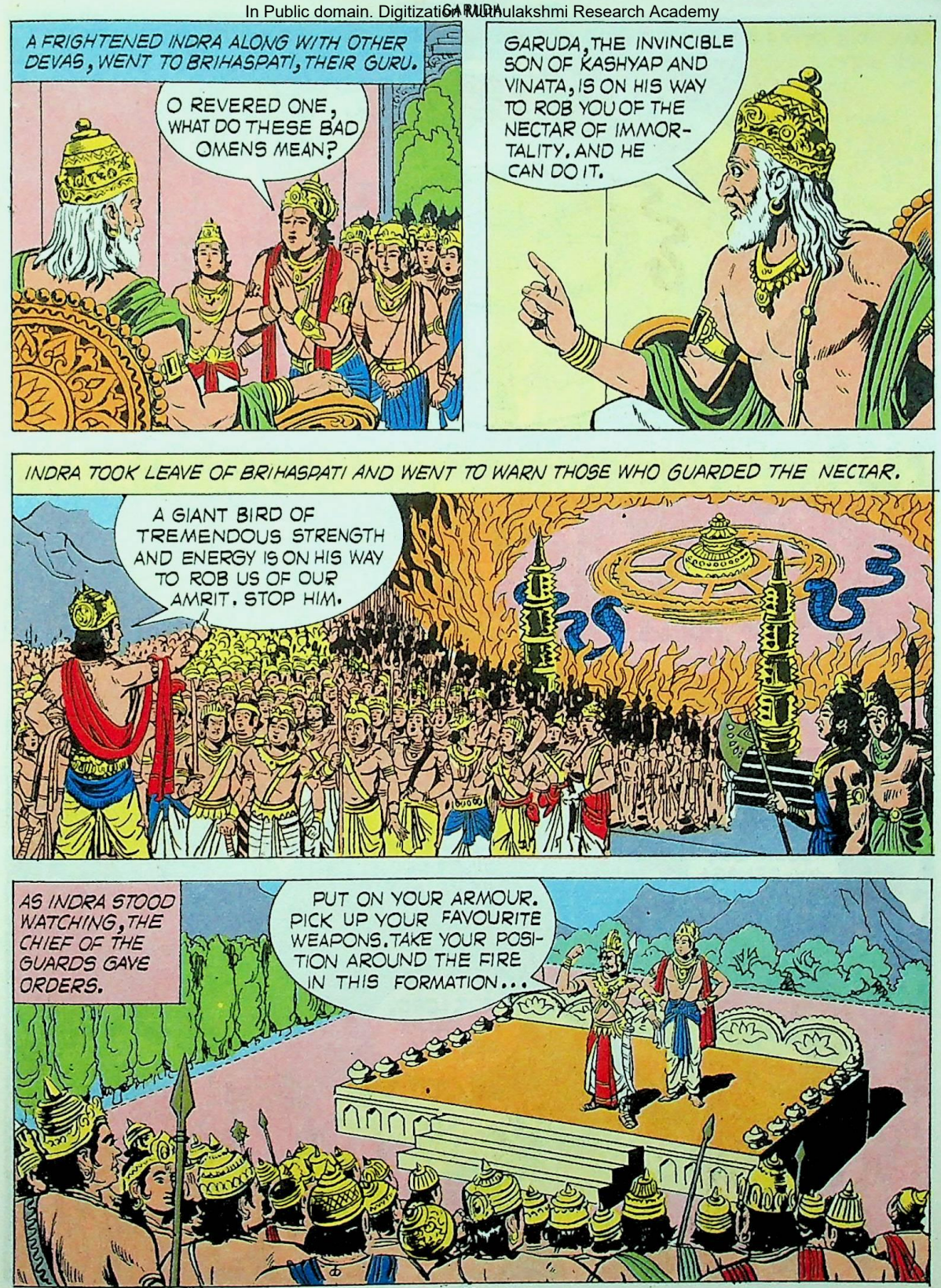

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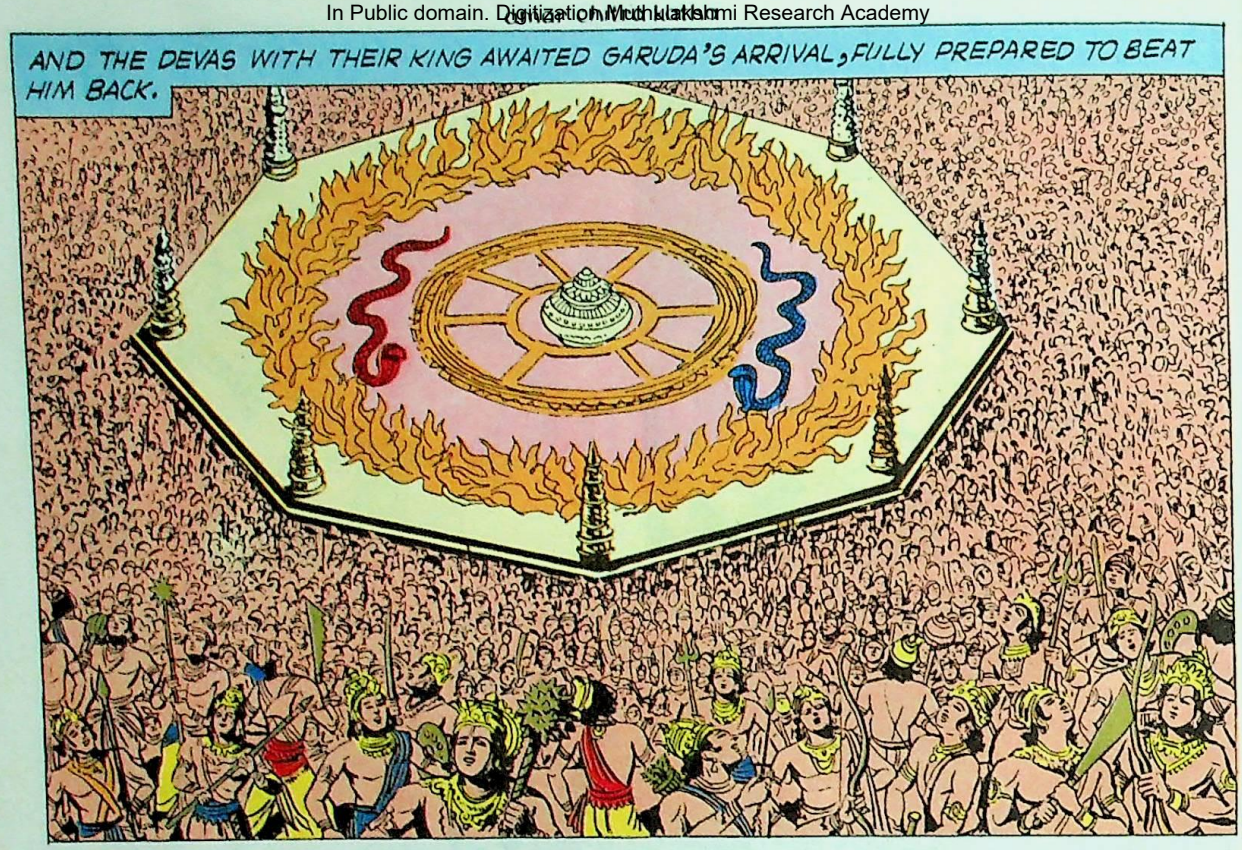

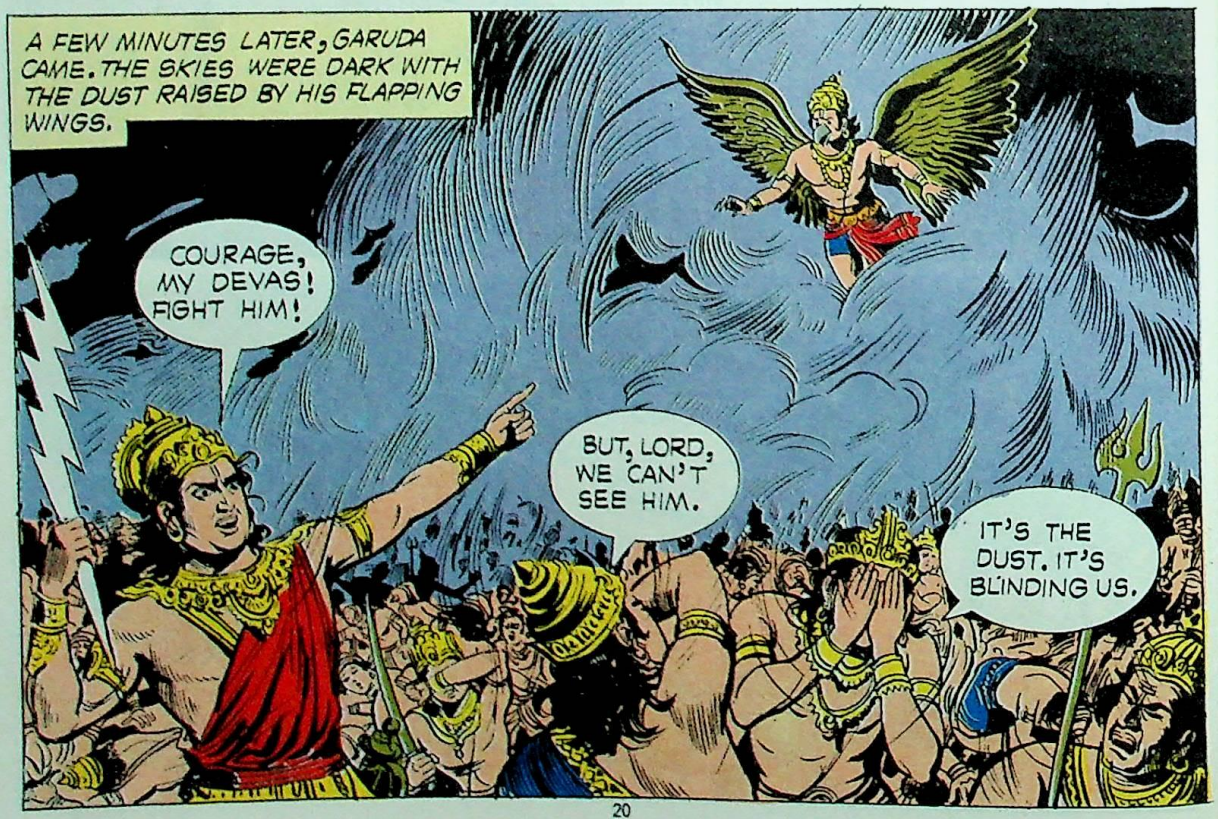

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INDRA TURNED TO THE GOD OF THE WINDS.

O VAYU, DISPEL THIS SHOWER OF DUST! ABATE THE STORM! ONLY YOU CAN DO IT.

VAYU DREW IN HIS BREATH...

...AND WITH ONE LARGE PUFF BLEW AWAY THE DUST.

AH! THERE HE IS.

ATTACK HIM!

DON'T SPARE EVEN A SINGLE FEATHER!

AS GARUDA HOVERED ABOVE THEM, THE DEVAS ATTACKED HIM WITH THEIR DOUBLE-EDGED BROADSWORDS, SPIKED IRON MACES, POINTED LANCES AND MANY A DISCUS.

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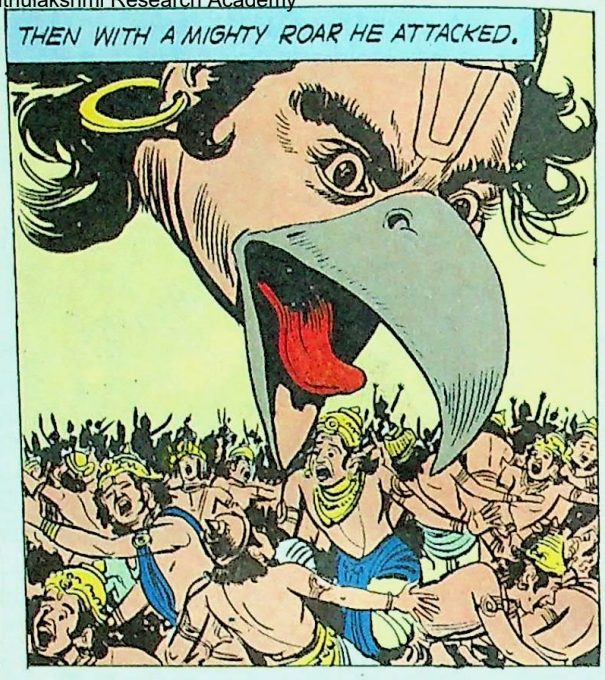

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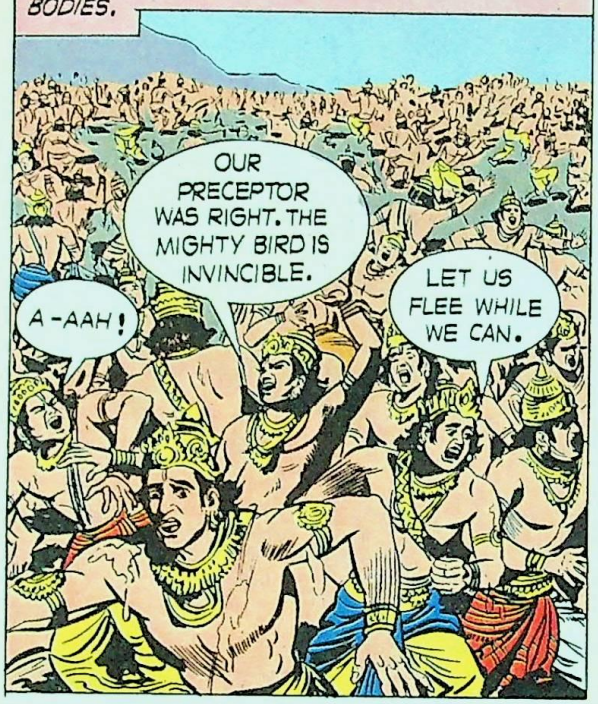
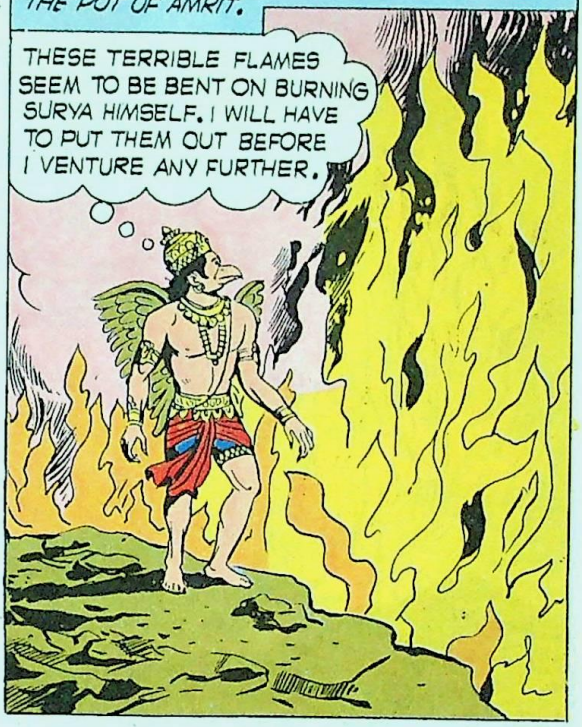
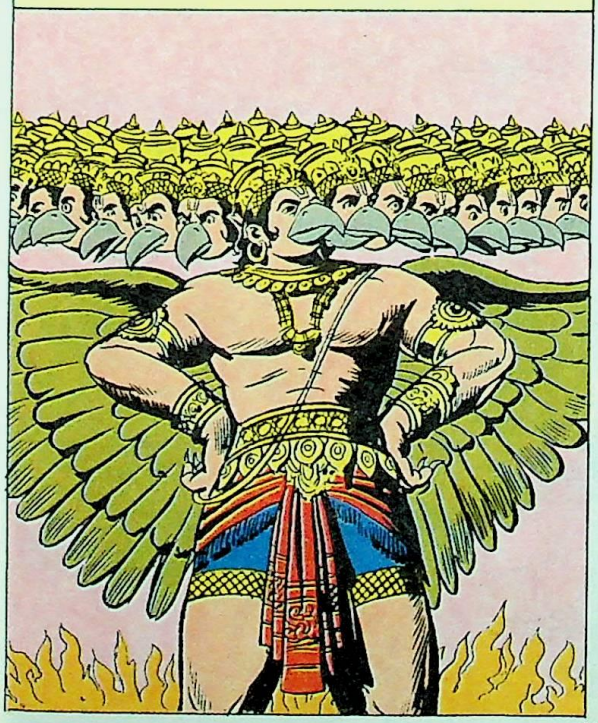
OVERCOME BY THE ONSLAUGHT, THE DEVAS BEGAN TO FLEE IN ALL DIRECTIONS, THE BLOOD FLOWING COPIOUSLY FROM THEIR MANGLED BODIES.



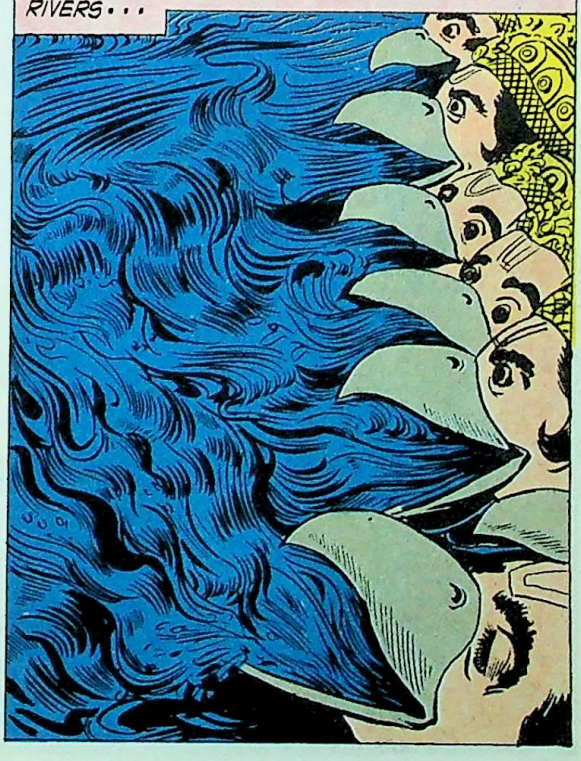
HAVING DEALT WITH THE DEVAS, GARUDA NOW HAD TO TACKLE THE WALL OF FIRE AROUND THE POT OF AMRIT.



CAPABLE OF CHANGING HIS FORM AT WILL, GARUDA ASSUMED NINETY TIMES NINETY MOUTHS...



...FILLED THEM WITH THE WATERS OF SEVERAL RIVERS...



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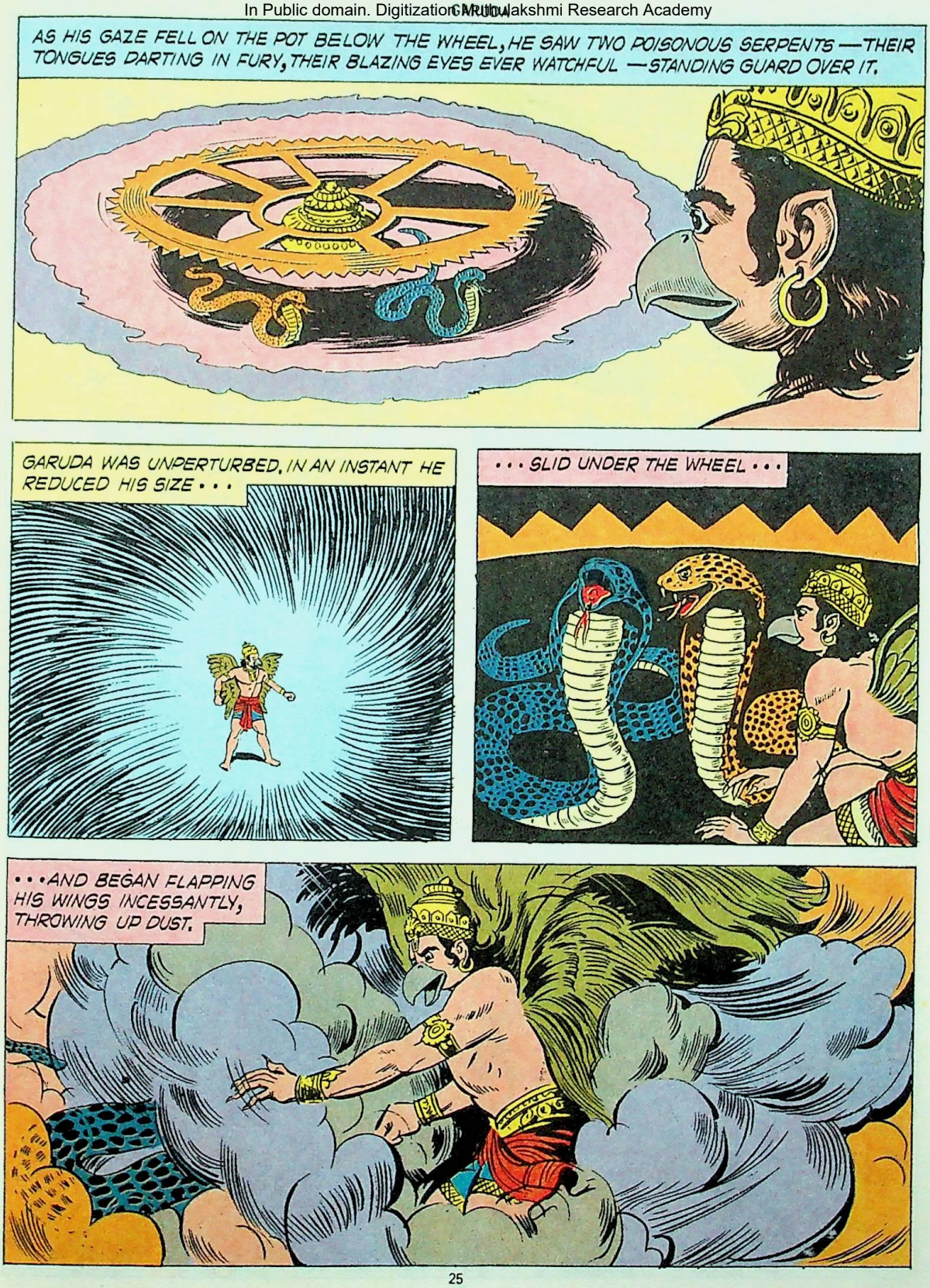
AS HIS GAZE FELL ON THE POT BELOW THE WHEEL, HE SAW TWO POISONOUS SERPENTS — THEIR TONGUES DARTING IN FURY, THEIR BLAZING EYES EVER WATCHFUL — STANDING GUARD OVER IT.
GARUDA WAS UNPERTURBED. IN AN INSTANT HE REDUCED HIS SIZE . . .
. . . SLID UNDER THE WHEEL . . .
. . . AND BEGAN FLAPPING HIS WINGS INCESSANTLY, THROWING UP DUST.

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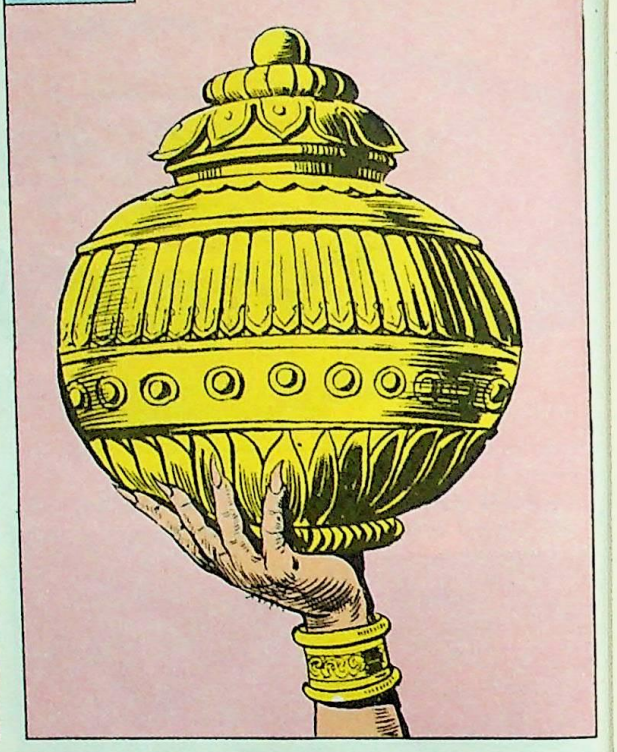
AND BEFORE THE BLINDED SERPENTS KNEW WHAT WAS HAPPENING, THEY WERE KILLED.

GARUDA THEN SNATCHED THE POT OF AMRIT AND...



...SUDDENLY BEGAN TO GROW — SHATTERING THE WHEEL INTO A MILLION PIECES WITH THE FORCE OF HIS ACTION.

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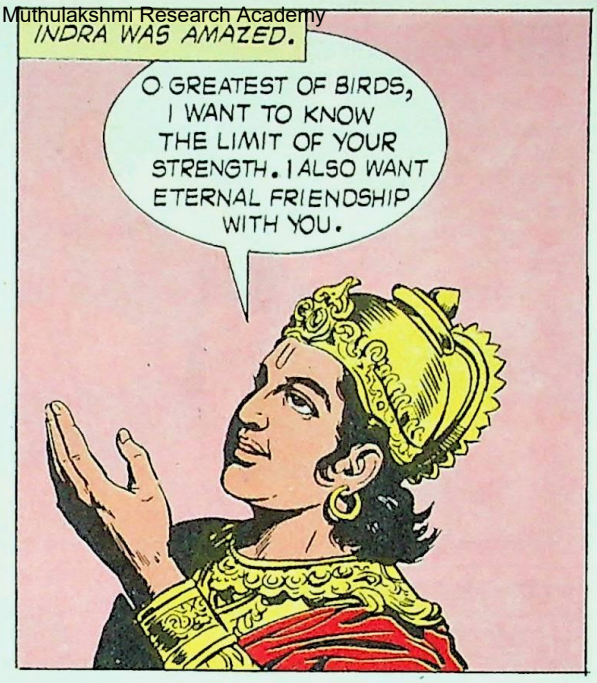

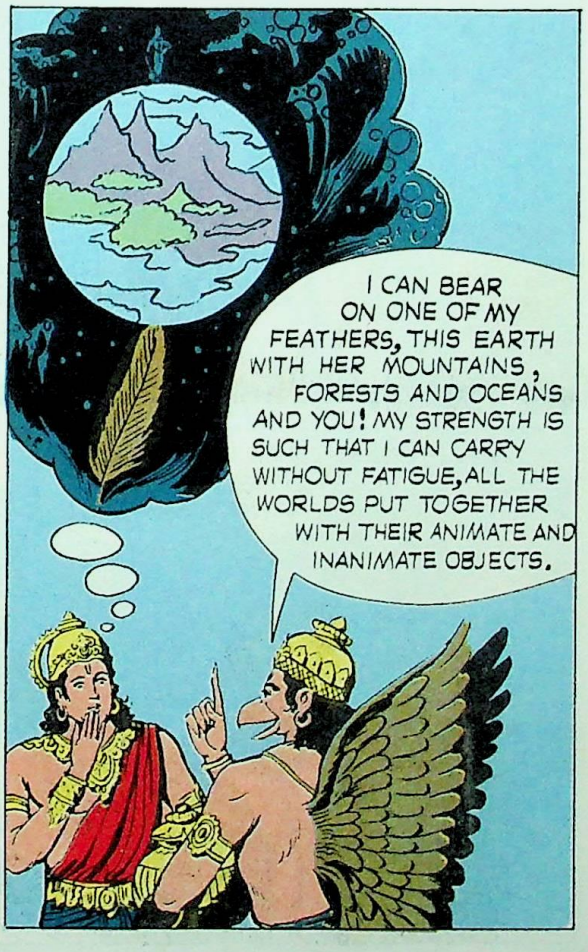

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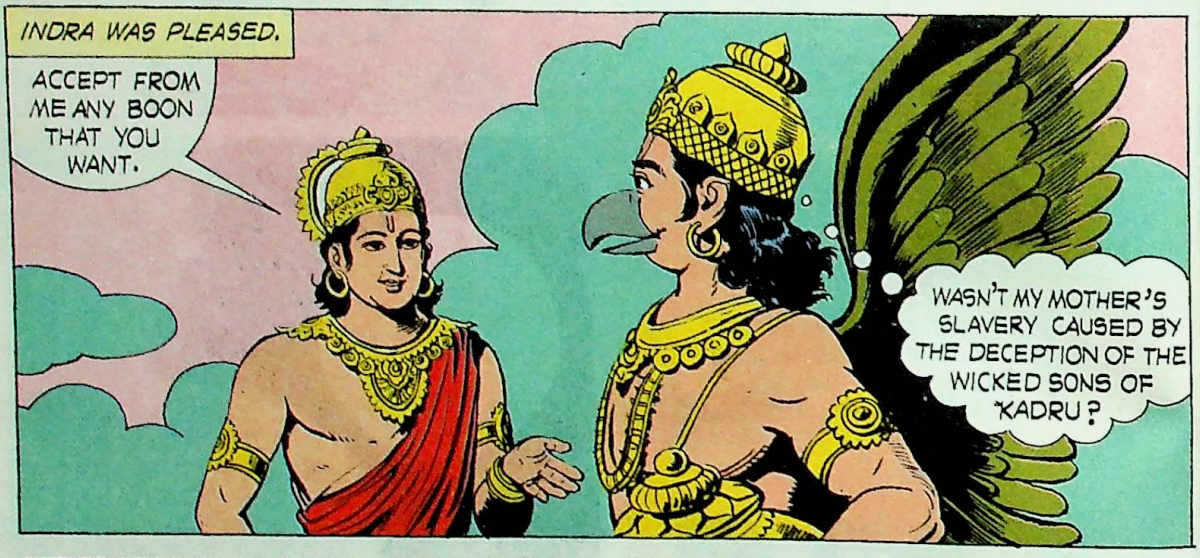

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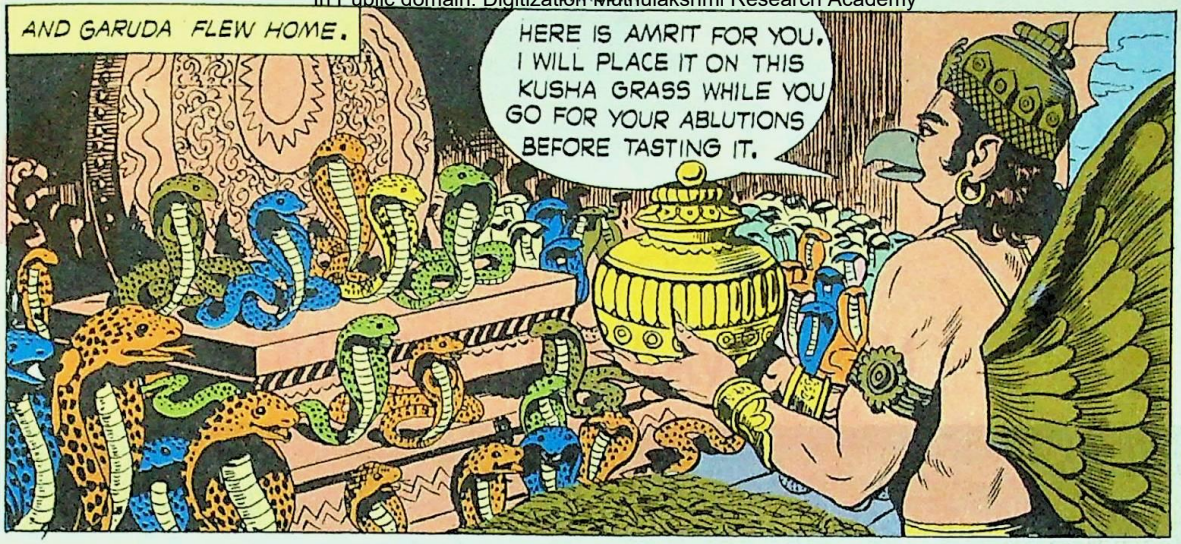

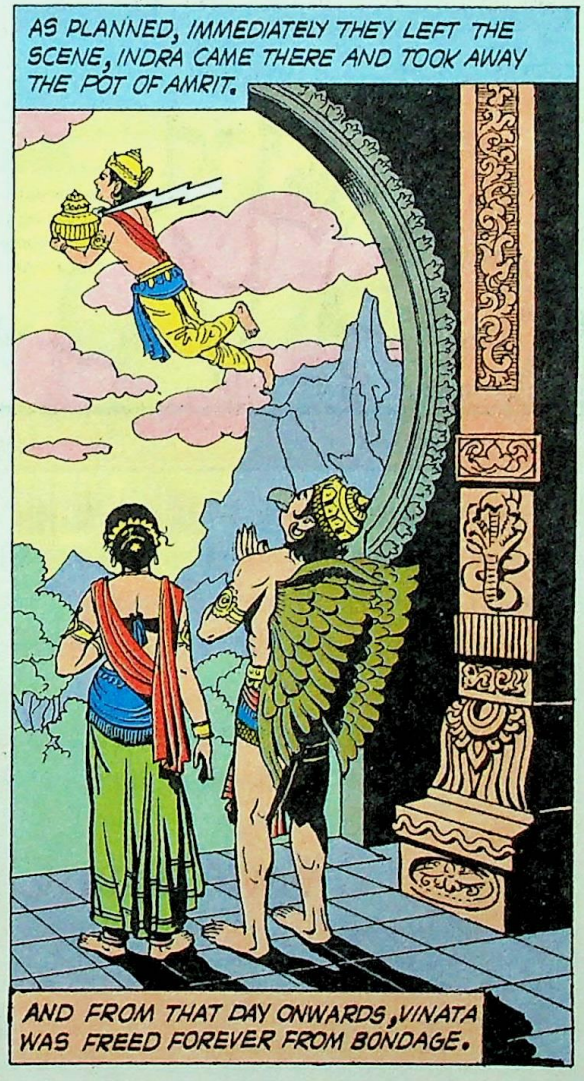

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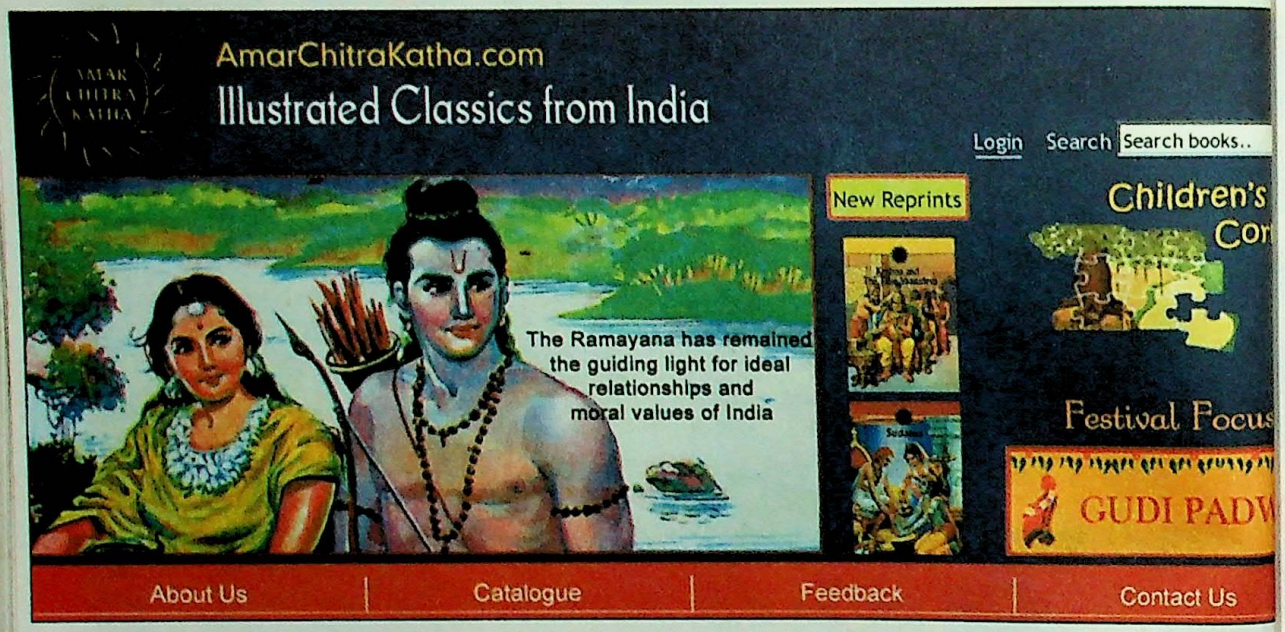

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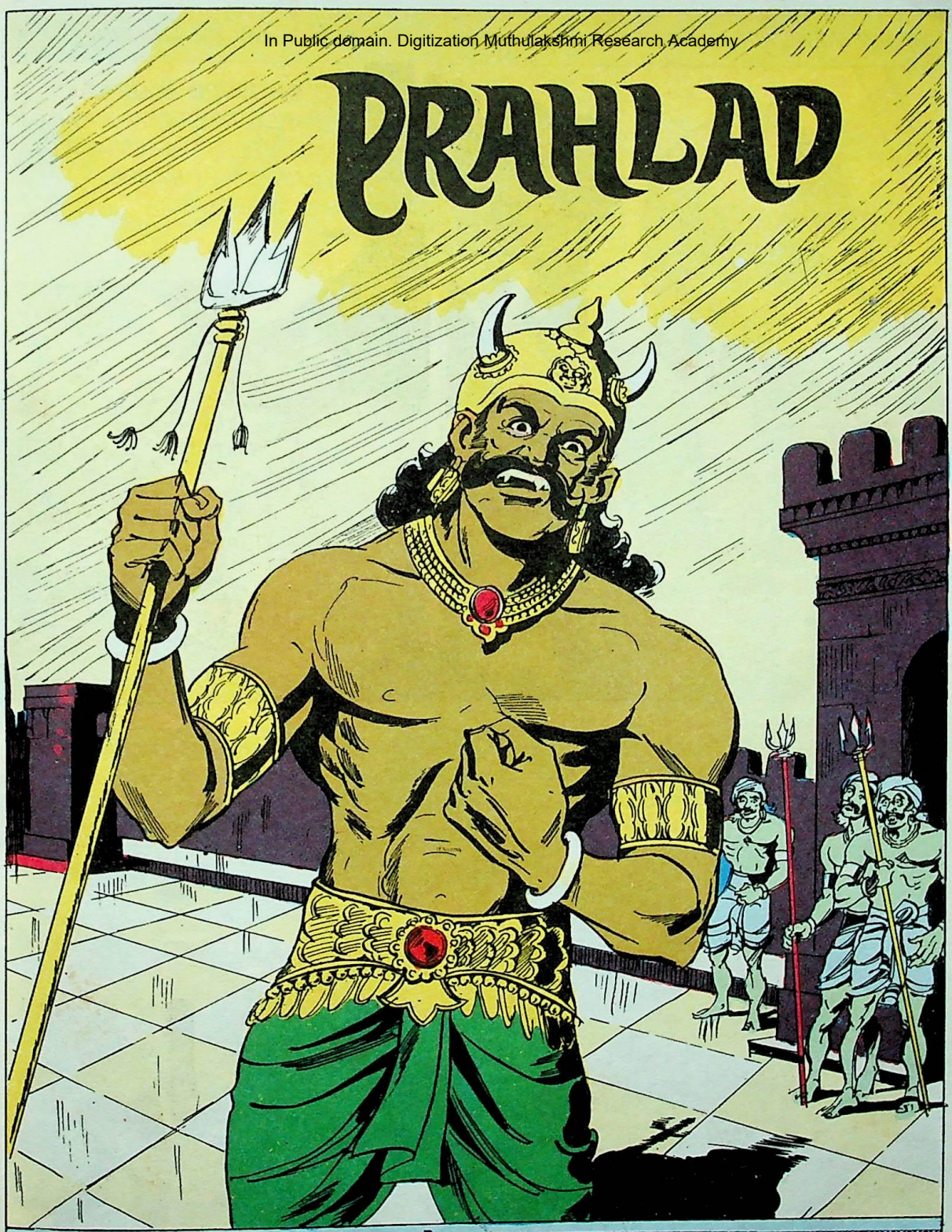
PRAHLAD



PRAHLAD WAS THE SON OF THE ASURA, HIRANYAKASHIPU.

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HIRANYAKASHIPU'S BROTHER HIRANYAKSHA HAD BEEN SLAIN BY VISHNU.

THE ASURAS, BY NATURE FOND OF OPPRESSING OTHERS, JOYFULLY OBEYED THE COMMAND.

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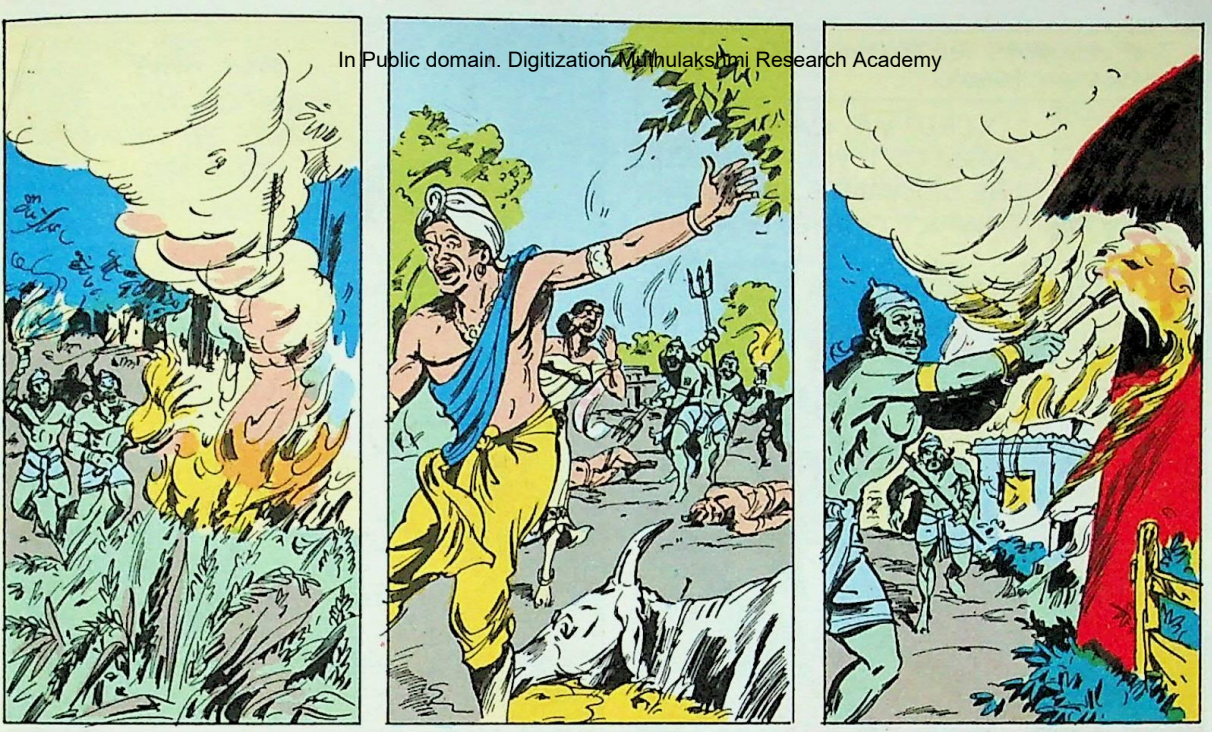
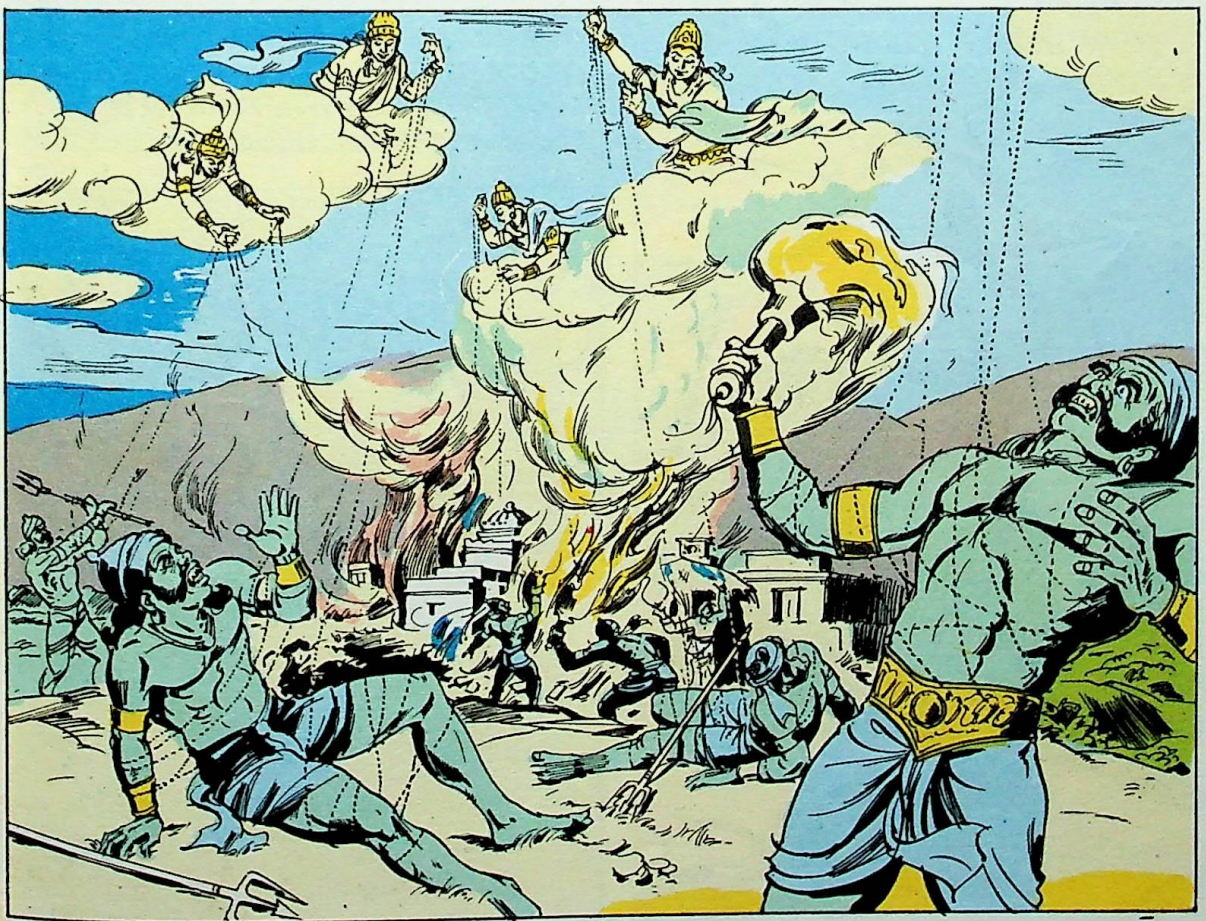


WHILE THE ASURAS WERE BUSY HARASSING THE DEVOTEES OF VISHNU, THE GODS WENT ABOUT PROTECTING THEM.



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THE ASURAS RETURNED TO HIRANYAKASHIPU.

LORD! WE CANNOT CARRY OUT YOUR ORDERS. THE SERVANTS OF VISHNU THWART OUR EFFORTS.

I WILL HAVE TO MATCH MY POWERS TO VISHNU'S TO LORD OVER THE THREE WORLDS!

SO HE BEGAN TO PERFORM SEVERE PENANCES.

WHEN THE GODS FOUND THAT VISHNU'S DEVOTEES NO LONGER NEEDED THEIR PROTECTION THEY RETURNED TO THEIR HEAVENLY ABODE.

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THERE THEY HELD COUNCIL.

YES! THIS IS THE MOMENT. THE ASURA KING IS AWAY, DEEP IN HIS PENANCE. LET US ATTACK HIS PEOPLE AND VANQUISH THEM FOREVER.

THE ASURAS WERE PANIC-STRICKEN.

THE GODS ARE PLANNING TO ATTACK US. WITHOUT OUR LORD WE ARE HELPLESS.

FLEE!

FLEE!

IN THEIR HASTE AND ANXIETY TO SAVE THEIR OWN LIVES, THEY DID NOT BOTHER TO TAKE EVEN THEIR WIVES, CATTLE OR MONEY.

WAIT!

DO NOT LEAVE US BEHIND!

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THE GODS RANSACKED THE ASURA CITY AND DESTROYED HIRANYA-KASHIPU'S PALACE.

AH! I HAVE THE GREATEST BOOTY OF THE ASURAS - HIRANYAKASHIPU'S QUEEN.

WHILE INDRA WAS TRANSPORTING HER TO HEAVEN, HE MET SAGE NARADA.

WAIT! YOU SHOULD NOT CARRY OFF THIS GUILTLESS QUEEN, THE CHASTE WIFE OF ANOTHER.

SHE IS GOING TO BE THE MOTHER OF HIRANYA-KASHIPU'S SON. SHE SHALL BE WITH ME TILL THE CHILD IS BORN!

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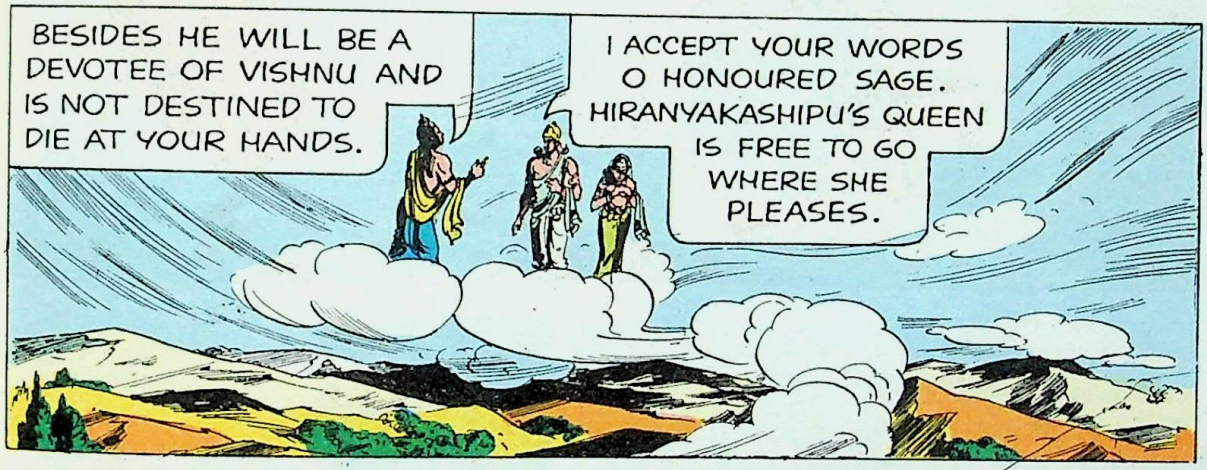

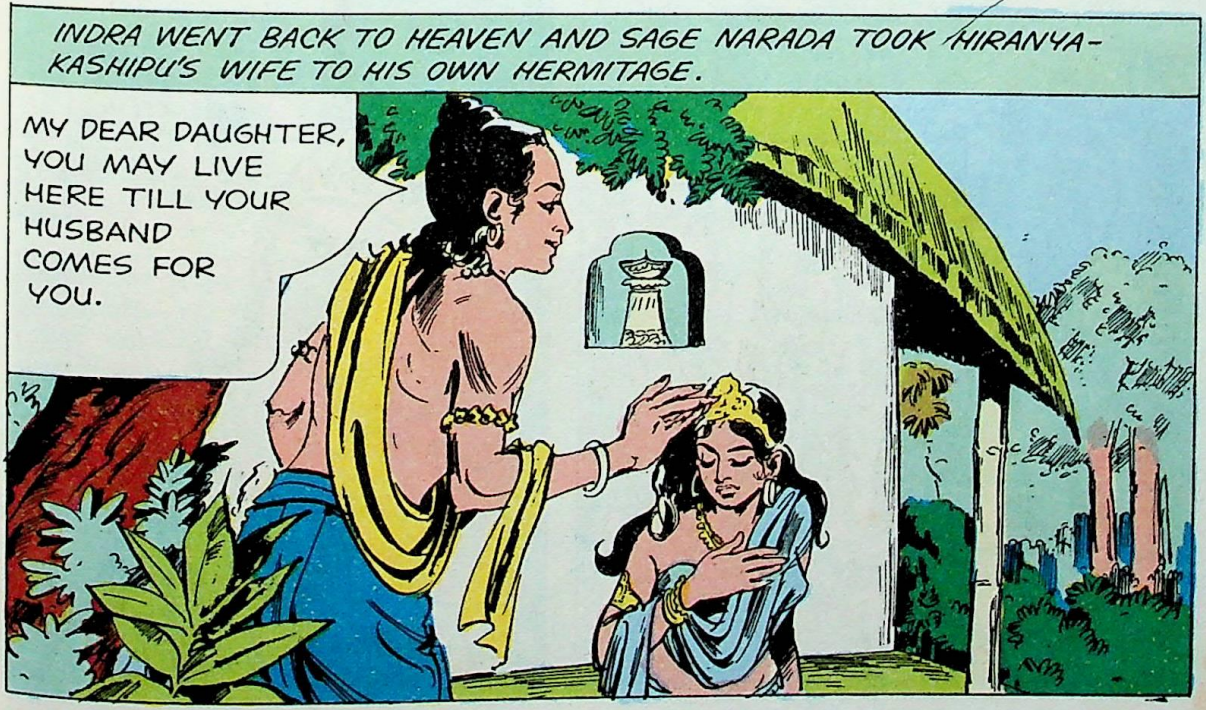

SHE LIVED IN THE ASHRAM OF THE GREAT SAGE AND LEARNED ABOUT RELIGION AND THE GLORY OF VISHNU FROM HIM. THE CHILD WITHIN HER, PRAHLAD, TOO, ABSORBED ALL THIS KNOWLEDGE.

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VISHNU IS THE SOUL OF ALL CREATED THINGS AND IS PRESENT EVERYWHERE.

IN THE MEANWHILE, WHEN INDRA REACHED HEAVEN...

WHAT'S THE MATTER?

HIRANYAKASHIPU'S AUSTERITIES ARE SCORCHING THE THREE WORLDS.

QUICK! LET US GO TO BRAHMA, OUR CREATOR.

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WHEN THEY REACHED THE ABODE OF BRAHMA—

O GREAT ONE, PACIFY HIRANYA-KASHIPU BEFORE HE DESTROYS ALL.

BE CALM, MY SONS. I SHALL SEE WHAT I CAN DO.

THE MIGHTY BRAHMA, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS CELESTIAL SAGES, WENT TO HIRANYAKASHIPU'S HERMITAGE.

BRAHMA WAS ASTONISHED BY THE SIGHT.

ARISE HIRANYA-KASHIPU. ANY BOON THAT YOU ASK OF ME SHALL BE YOURS.

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AS SOON AS THE DROPS OF BRAHMA'S HOLY WATER TOUCHED HIM, HIRANYAKASHIPU CAME OUT OF HIS TRANCE AND SALUTED BRAHMA.

IF SO, THEN I PRAY THAT MY DEATH BE NOT CAUSED BY MAN OR BEAST, WITH A WEAPON OR WITHOUT, DURING DAY OR NIGHT, INDOORS OR OUTDOORS, ON EARTH OR IN THE SKY. GRANT ME THE UNDISPUTED LORDSHIP OVER THE MATERIAL WORLD.

MY SON! THE BOONS YOU HAVE ASKED OF ME ARE OBTAINED WITH GREAT DIFFICULTY. YET I GRANT THEM TO YOU.

BRAHMA DEPARTED AND HIRANYAKASHIPU WAS OVERJOYED.

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HIRANYAKASHIPU BROUGHT HIS WIFE BACK TO THEIR CITY WHERE PRAHLAD WAS BORN.

HIRANYAKASHIPU, WITH HIS NEW POWERS, RENEWED HIS HOSTILITIES AGAINST VISHNU AND HIS FOLLOWERS.

HE DROVE THE GODS OUT OF THEIR ABODE AND ESTABLISHED HIMSELF IN HEAVEN.

ALL THE GODS IN HEAVEN EXCEPT BRAHMA, VISHNU AND SHIVA, BEGAN TO WORSHIP THE INFURIATED HIRANYAKASHIPU.

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GOOD! YOU ARE WISE TO WORSHIP ME; OR IS IT FEAR THAT I MIGHT SLAY YOU OTHERWISE?

AT LAST THE OPPRESSED GODS AND DEVOTEES OF VISHNU APPEALED TO HIM.

O LORD, WE SHALL FOREGO SLEEP AND LIVE ONLY ON AIR TILL YOU COME TO OUR AID.

AFTER A FEW DAYS...

DO NOT BE AFRAID! I WILL PUT AN END TO THE OPPRESSION OF HIRANYAKASHIPU. I WILL SLAY HIM WHEN HE BEGINS TO PERSECUTE HIS OWN SON, THE HIGH-SOULED, PEACE-LOVING PRAHLAD.

THE CELESTIALS WENT AWAY CONSIDERING THE ASURAS AS ALREADY VANQUISHED.

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PRAHLAD IN THE MEANWHILE WAS GROWING UP AND WAS HIRANYAKASHIPU'S DELIGHT. ONE DAY—

DEAR SON! TELL ME. WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE BEST THING IN LIFE?

TO RENOUNCE THE WORLD AND SEEK REFUGE IN VISHNU.

HIRANYAKASHIPU LAUGHED. THEN HE CALLED HIS SON'S TEACHER TO HIM.

GUARD HIM CLOSELY. I THINK THAT THE FOLLOWERS OF VISHNU ARE SECRETLY INFLUENCING HIM. DON'T LET HIM OUT OF YOUR SIGHT.

PRAHLAD WENT TO LIVE IN THE HOUSE OF HIS TEACHER.

O PRAHLAD! TELL ME THE TRUTH. DO NOT BE AFRAID. WHO HAS SPOKEN TO YOU ABOUT VISHNU?

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THE TEACHER THEN SENT FOR PRAHLAD'S MOTHER.

ANOINT HIM WITH PERFUMES AND DECORATE HIM WITH ORNAMENTS. WE WISH TO PRESENT HIM BEFORE LORD HIRANYA-KASHIPU.

THE BEDECKED PRAHLAD WAS TAKEN TO HIRANYAKASHIPU.

O MY SON! MAY YOU LIVE LONG.

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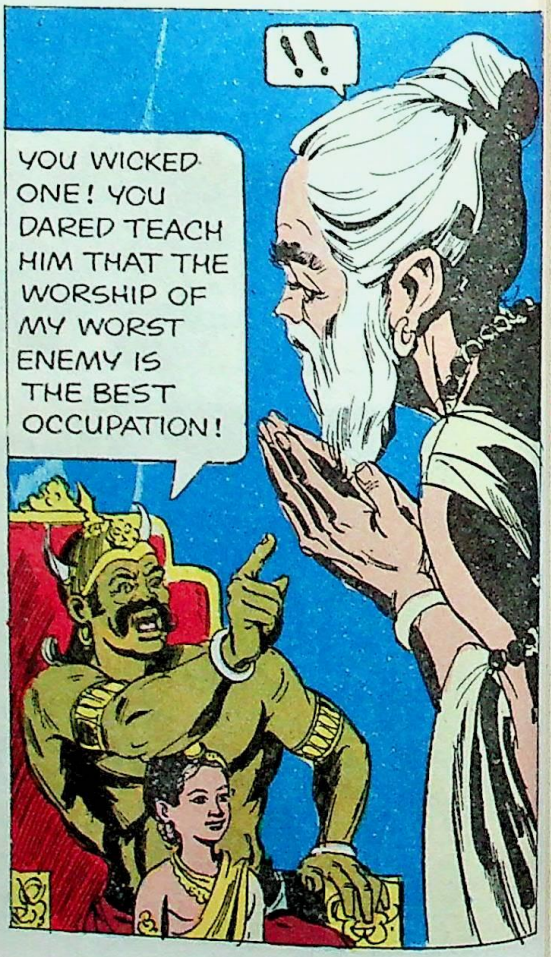

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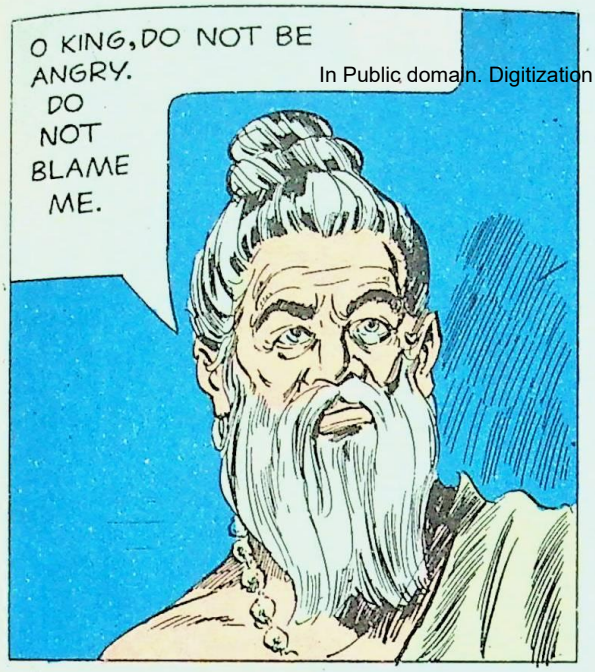

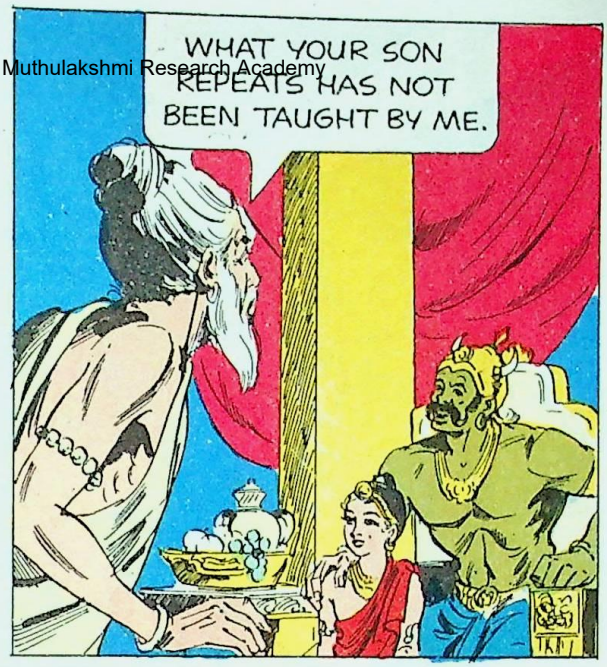

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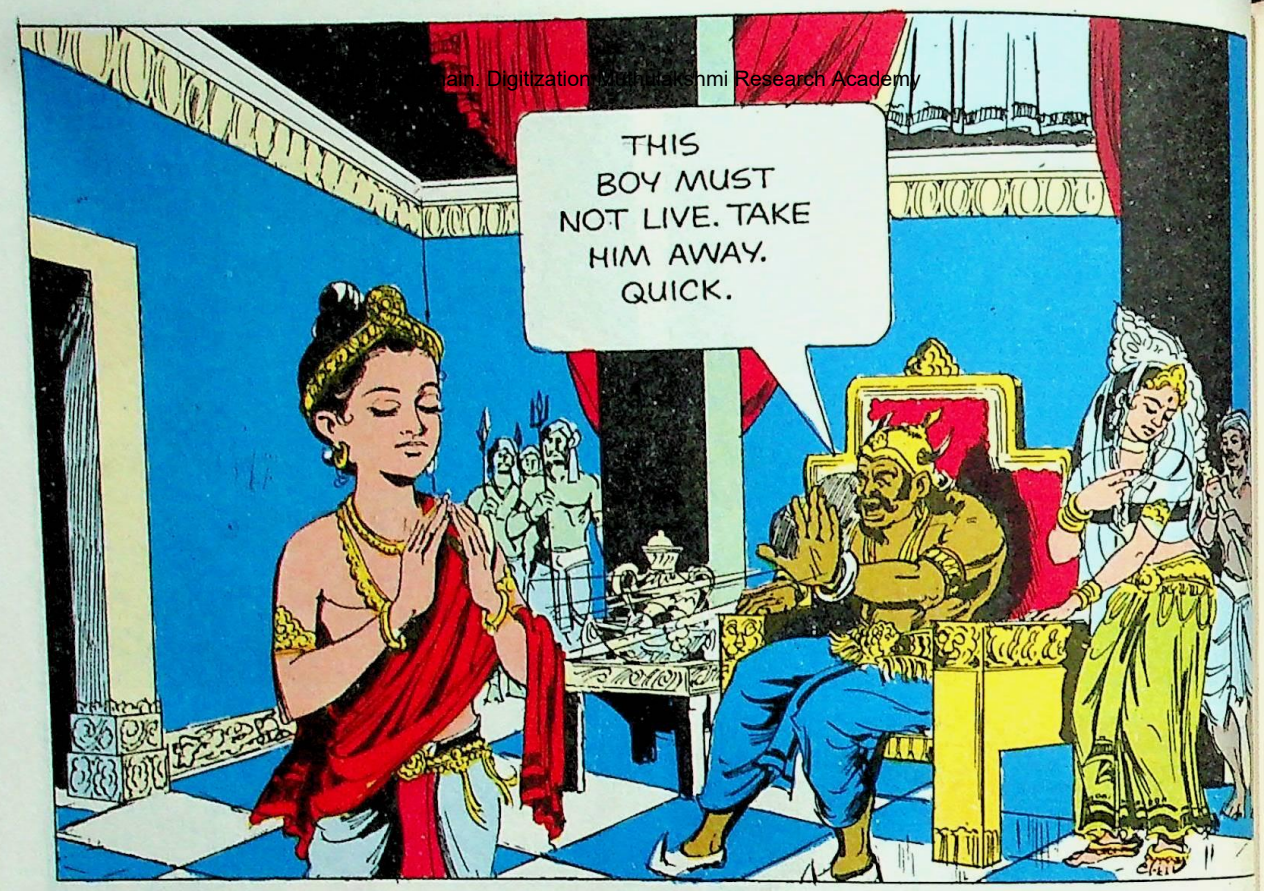
THIS BOY MUST NOT LIVE. TAKE HIM AWAY. QUICK.

KILL THIS VILEST FOE DISGUISED AS MY SON. POISON HIM OR ATTACK HIM WHEN HE IS ASLEEP OR UNGUARDED. BUT KILL HIM.



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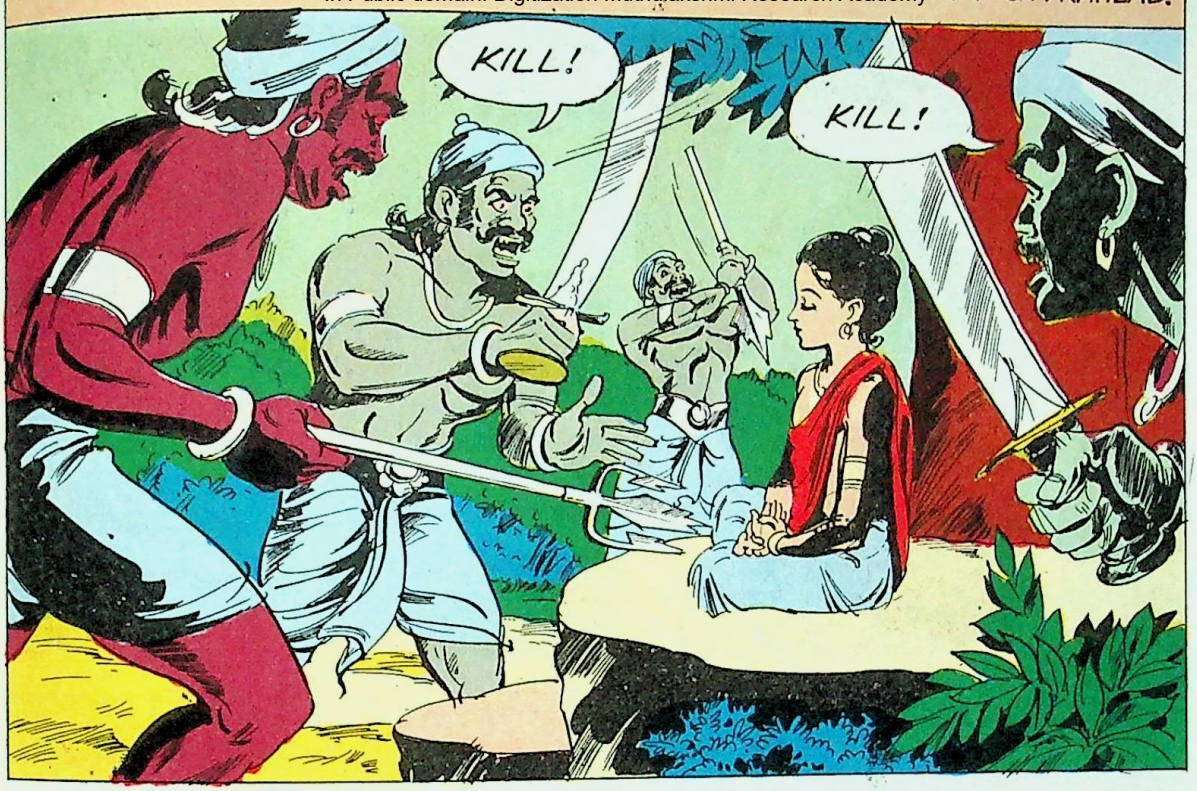
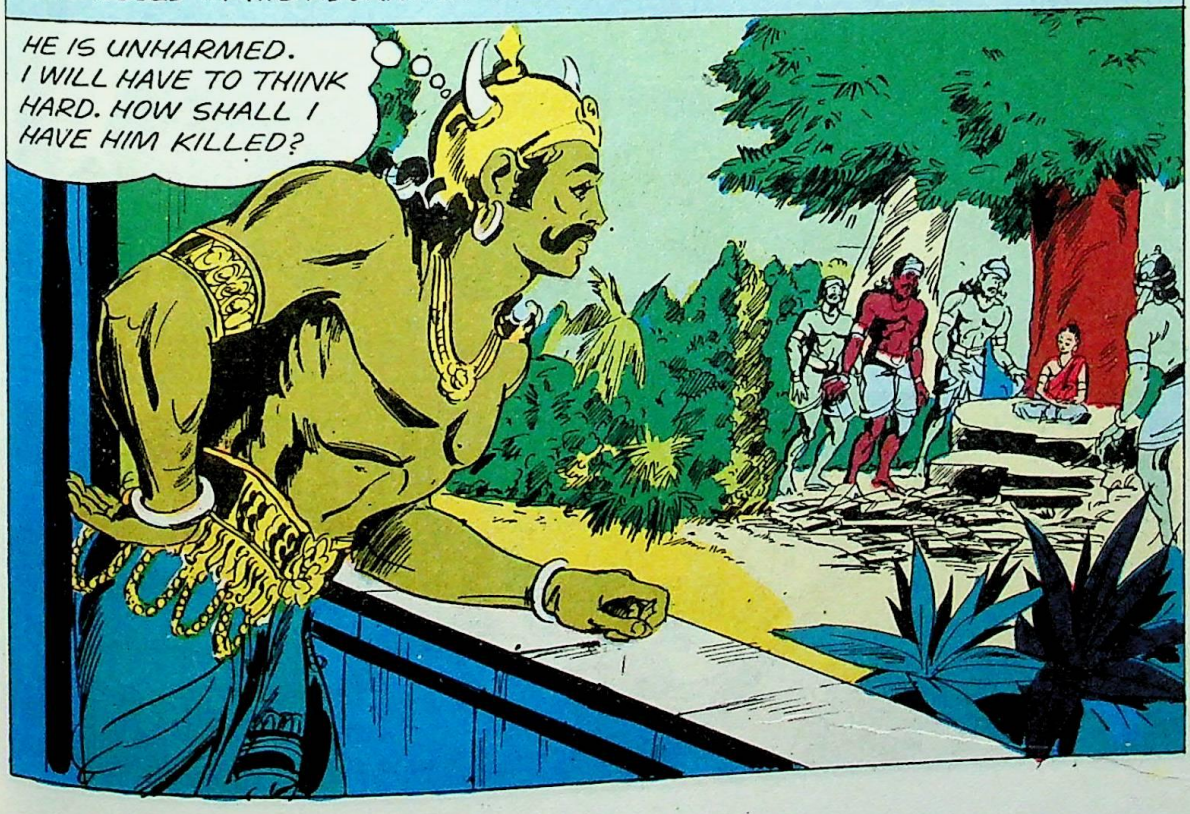
THUS COMMANDED BY HIRANYAKASHIPU, THE ASURAS BEGAN TO ATTACK PRAHLAD.



BUT THEIR STROKES WERE OF NO AVAIL FOR PRAHLAD WAS DEEPLY ENGROSSED IN HIS ADORATION OF VISHNU.



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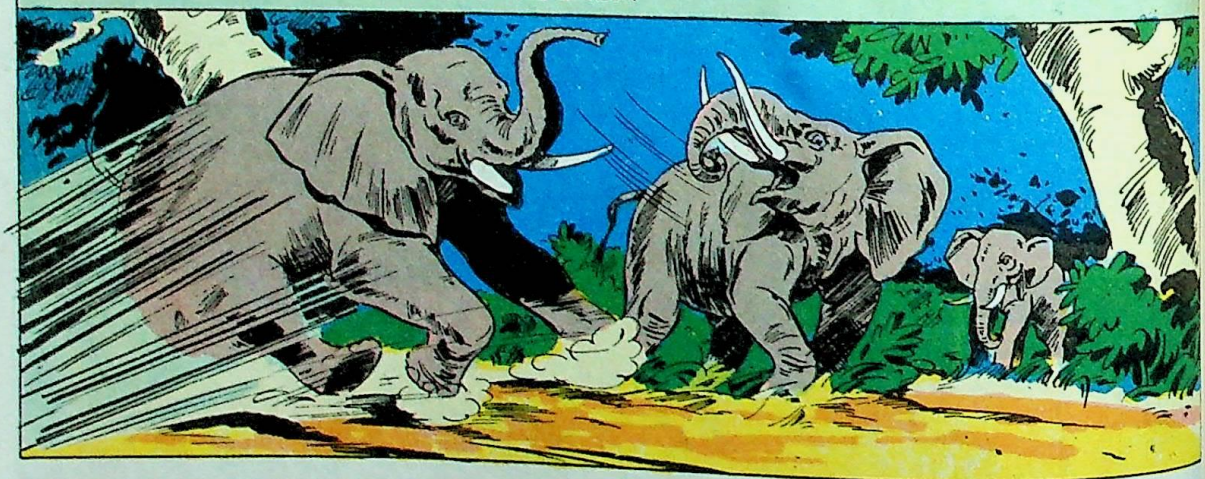
HIRANYAKASHIPU HAD THE MOST DEADLY SERPENTS BROUGHT. THEY WERE LET LOOSE ON PRAHLAD. BUT THEIR FANGS TURNED IMPOTENT.

HIRANYAKASHIPU THEN CALLED FOR MIGHTY ELEPHANTS AND MADE THEM TRAMPLE UPON PRAHLAD. BUT ONCE AGAIN IT WAS THE ELEPHANTS THAT WERE INJURED.



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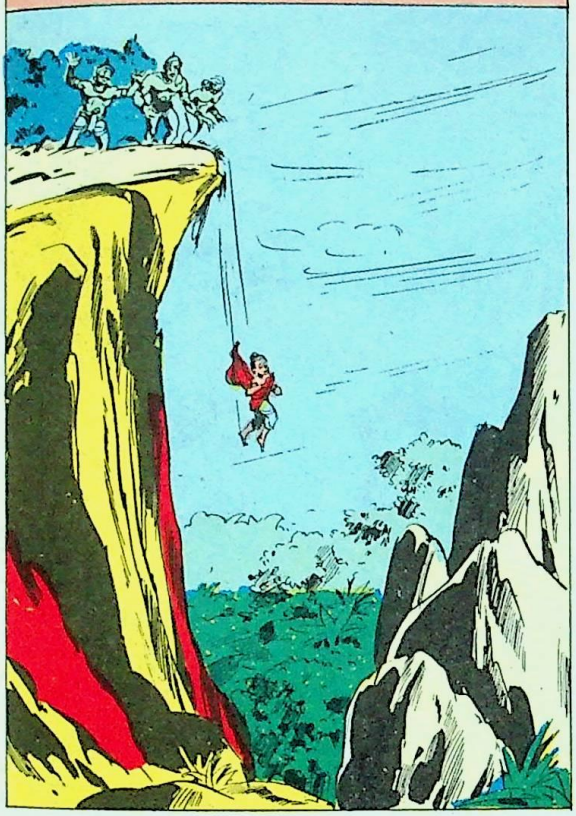
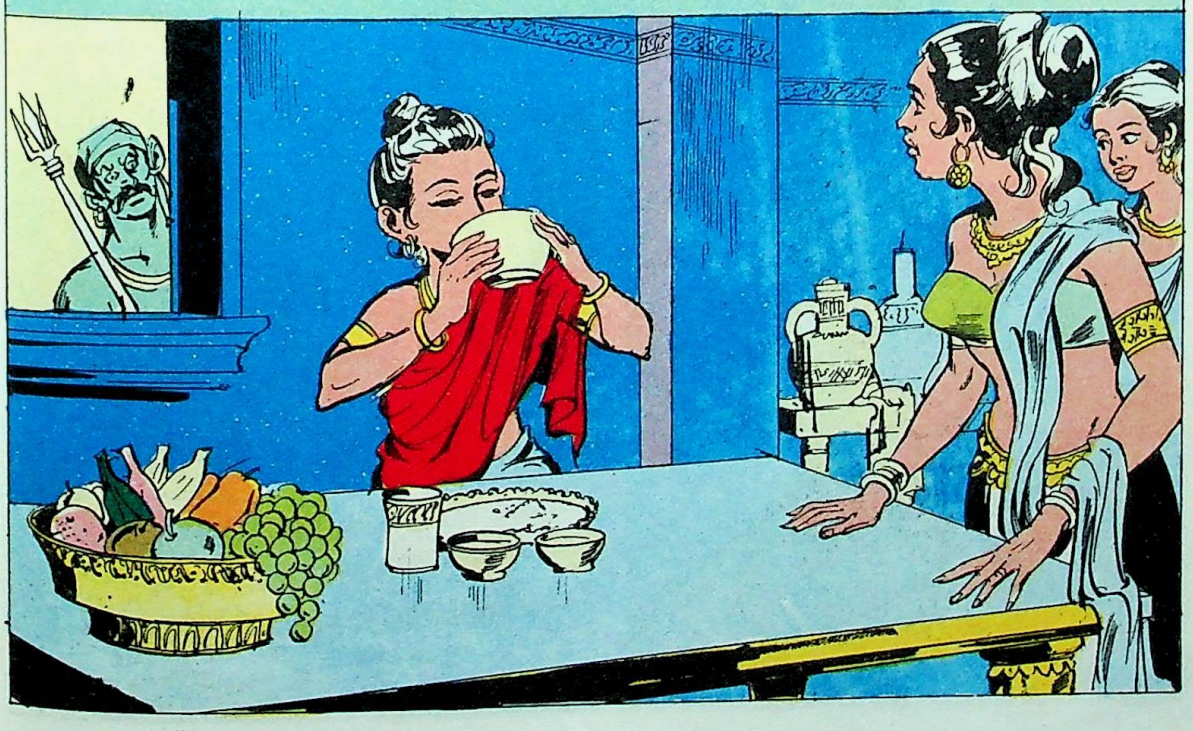
THEN HIRANYAKASHIPU HAD HIM PUSHED OFF A CLIFF AND...



...THROWN INTO A BLAZING FIRE.

BUT NOT A HAIR ON PRAHLAD'S HEAD WAS SINGED.

IN DESPERATION HIRANYAKASHIPU HAD HIM FED WITH A DEADLY POISON BUT IT TURNED INTO NECTAR IN PRAHLAD'S MOUTH.



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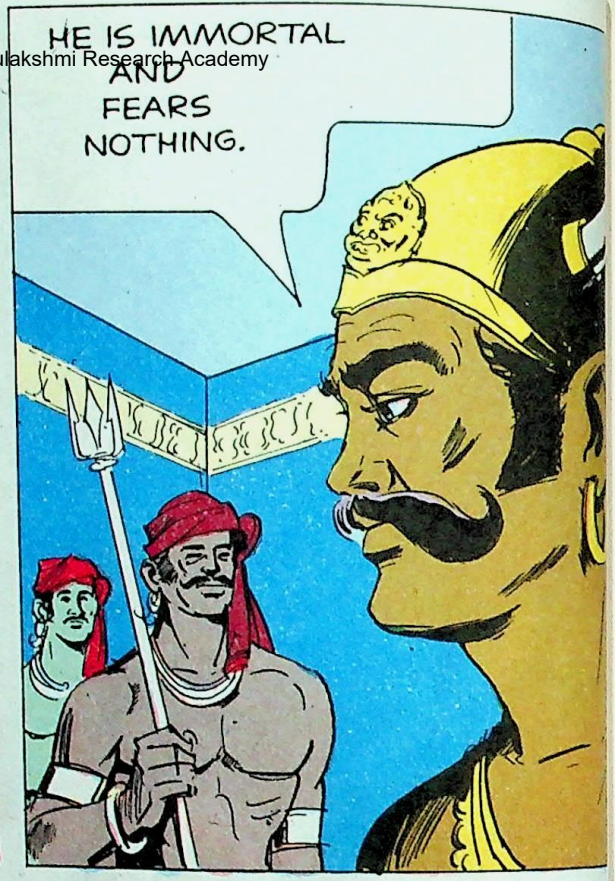

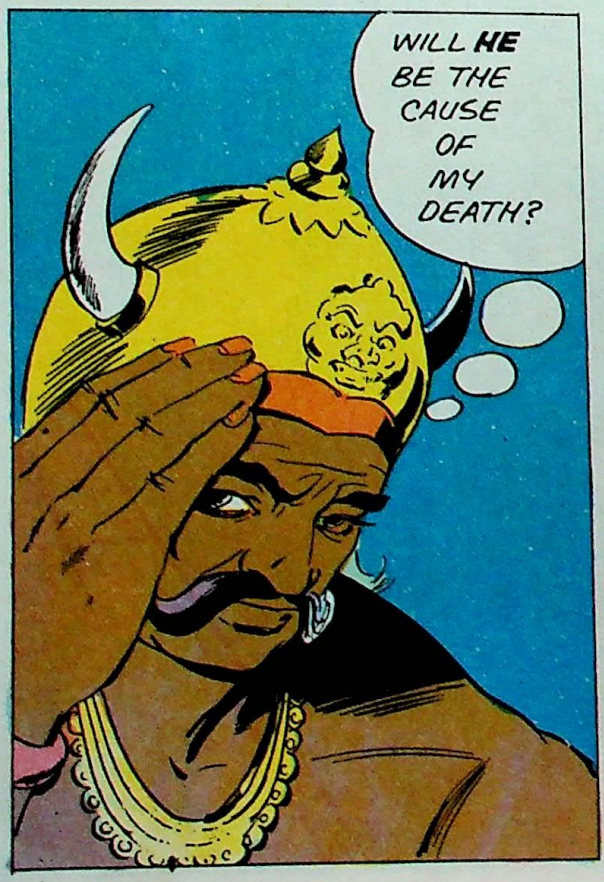

THIS TIME THE TEACHER TRIED TO GET PRAHLAD INTERESTED IN THE MEANS FOR ACQUIRING WEALTH AND PHYSICAL PLEASURES. BUT—

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HOW CAN THE PURSUIT OF PHYSICAL PLEASURES AND WEALTH BRING HAPPINESS? IT WILL ONLY LEAD TO ENVY AND ANGER.

WHILE PRAHLAD WAS ENGAGED IN SUCH THOUGHTS, OTHER PUPILS CAME AND JOINED HIM.

PRAHLAD, TALK TO US ABOUT YOUR BELIEFS.

WORSHIP VISHNU. HE IS THE SOUL OF ALL CREATED BEINGS AND EXISTS EVERYWHERE.

O ASURAS, DIRECT YOUR DEVOTION TO VISHNU AND LOVE ALL CREATED BEINGS.

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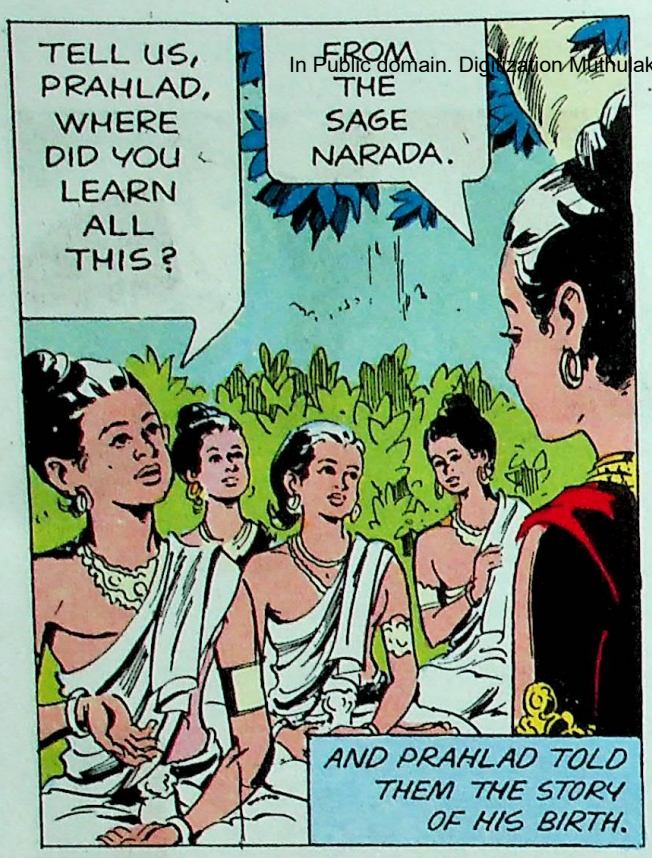

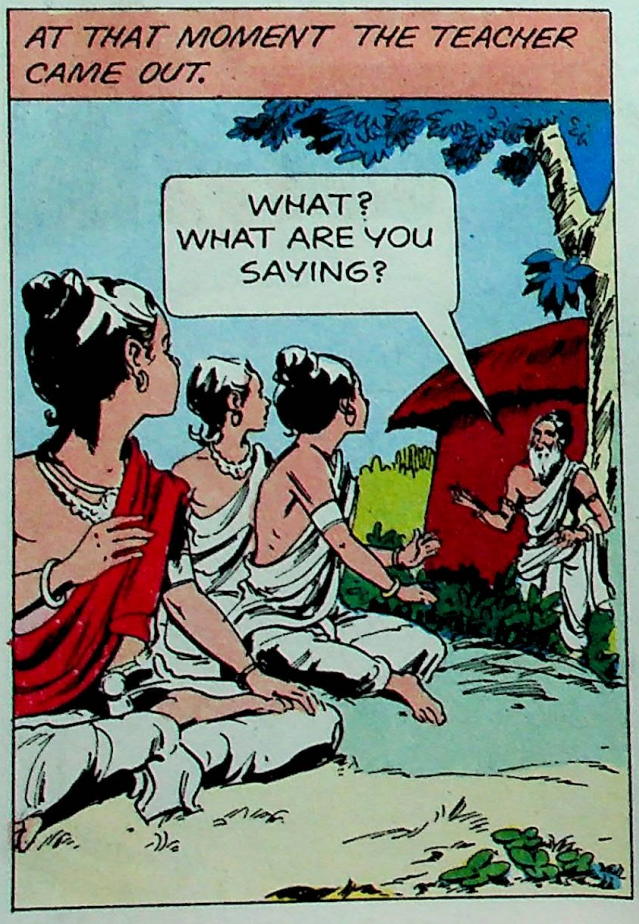

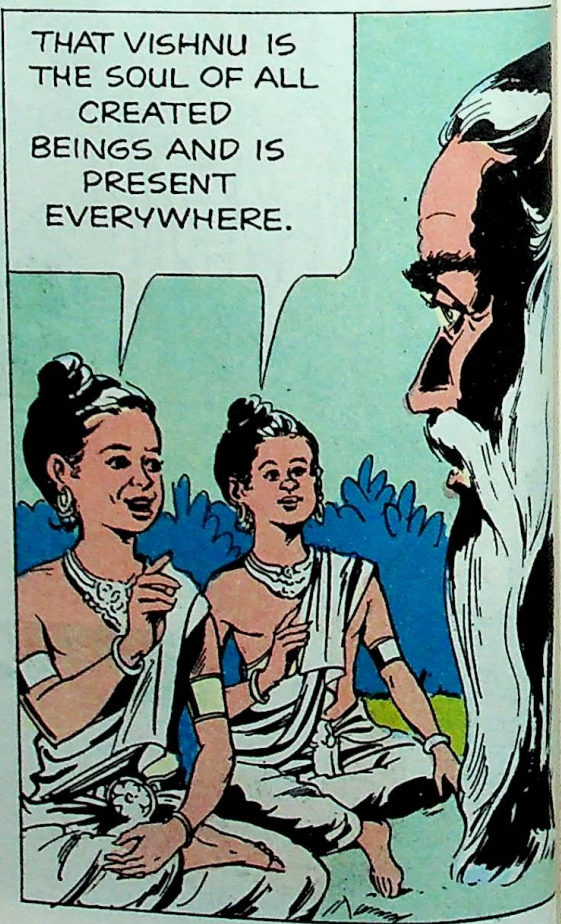

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THE TEACHER WENT STRAIGHT TO HIRANYAKASHIPU.

O LORD, WE MUST DO SOMETHING BEFORE ANY MORE HARM IS DONE.

YOUR SON IS SPREADING HIS VILE BELIEFS AMONG MY PUPILS!

HIRANYAKASHIPU SENT FOR PRAHLAD.

YOU WICKED WRETCH! ARE YOU TRYING TO DESTROY ME AND MY RACE?

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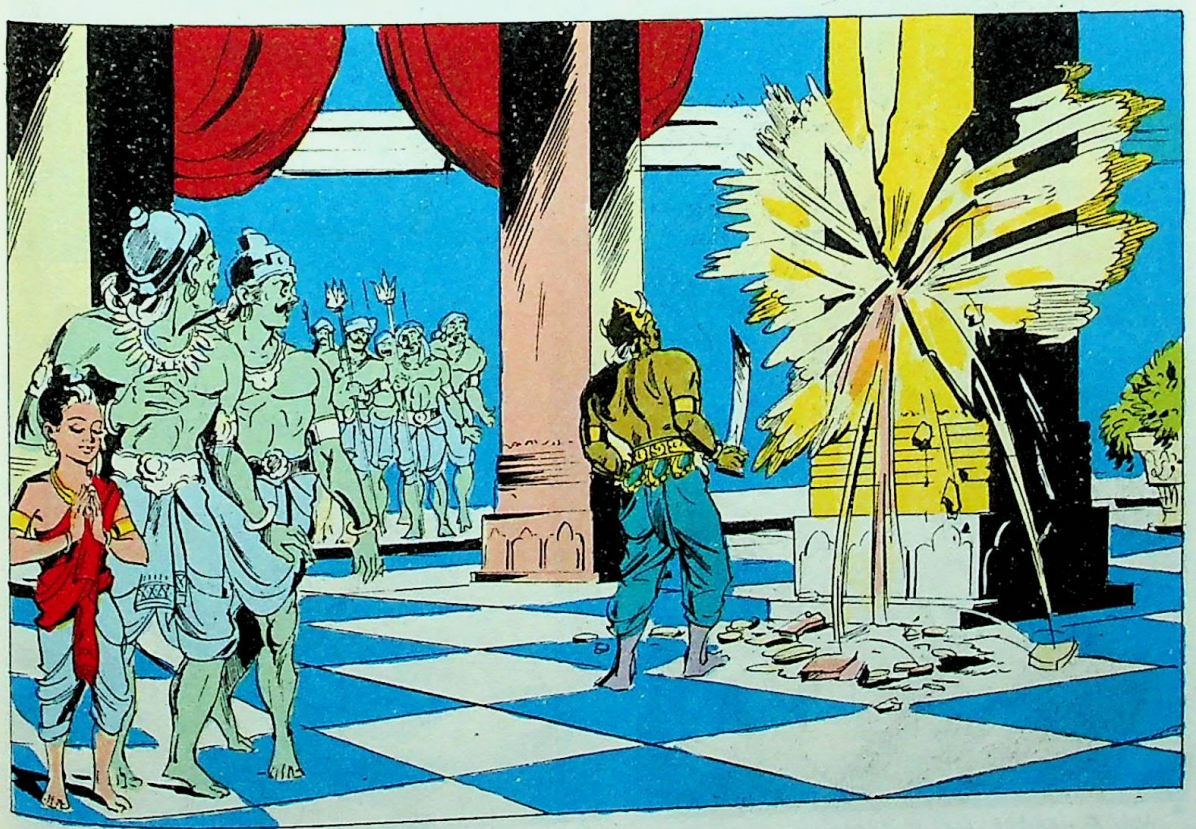

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* HALF-MAN, HALF-LION

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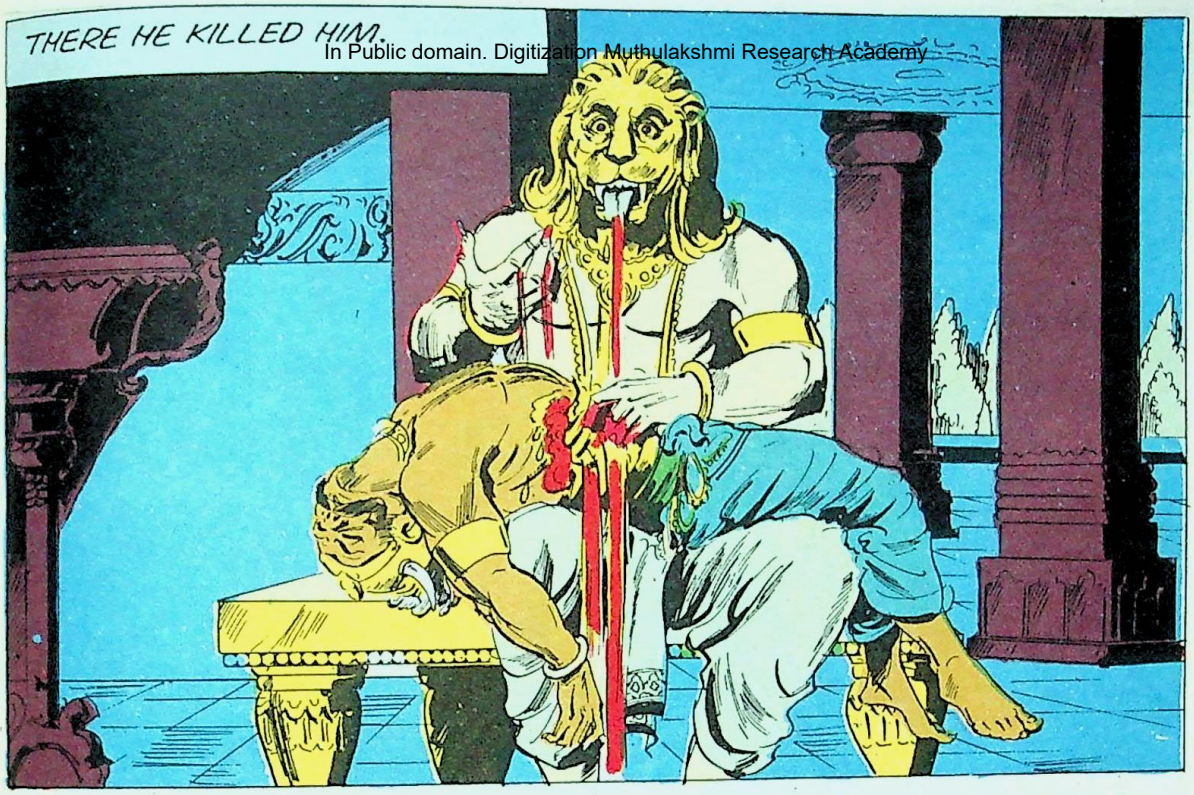

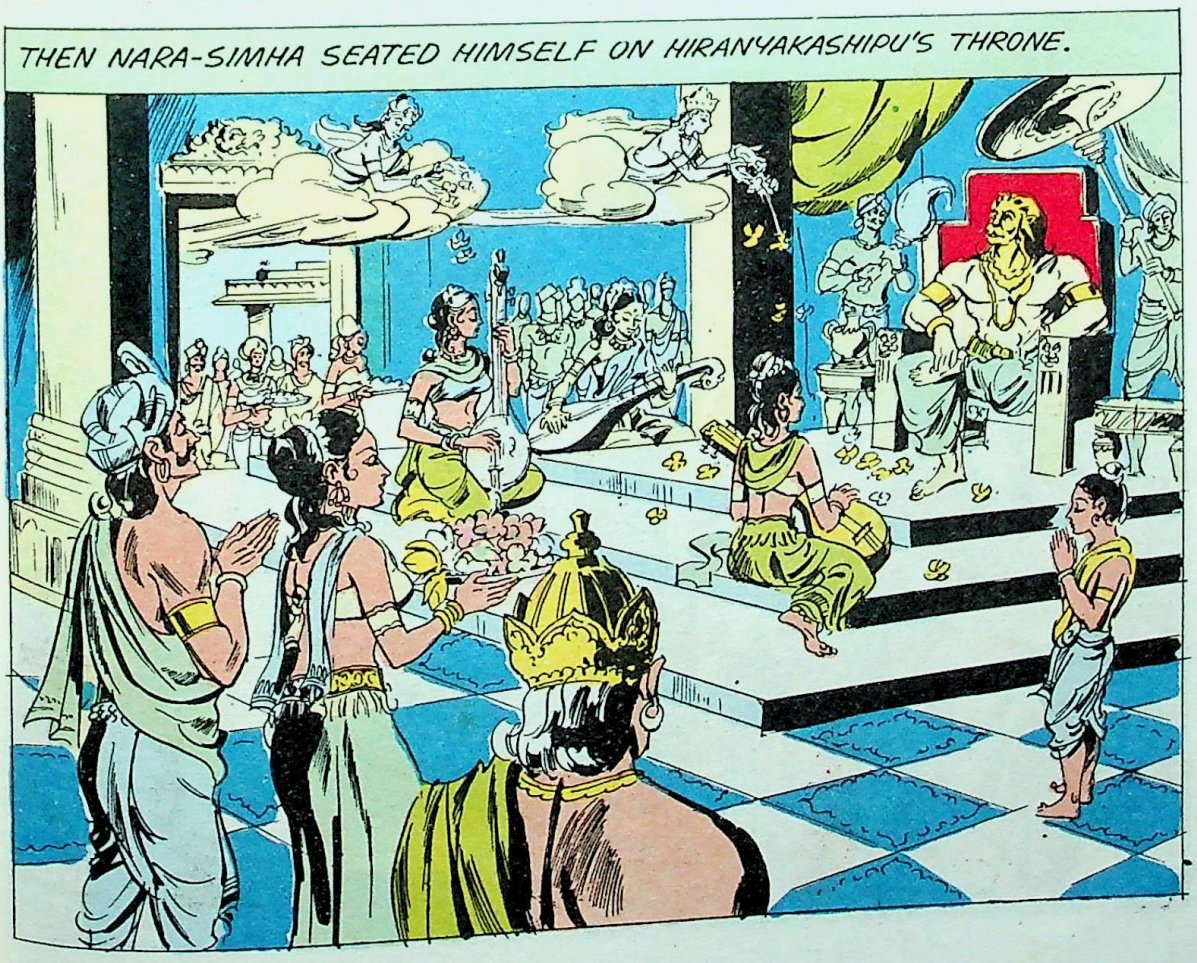

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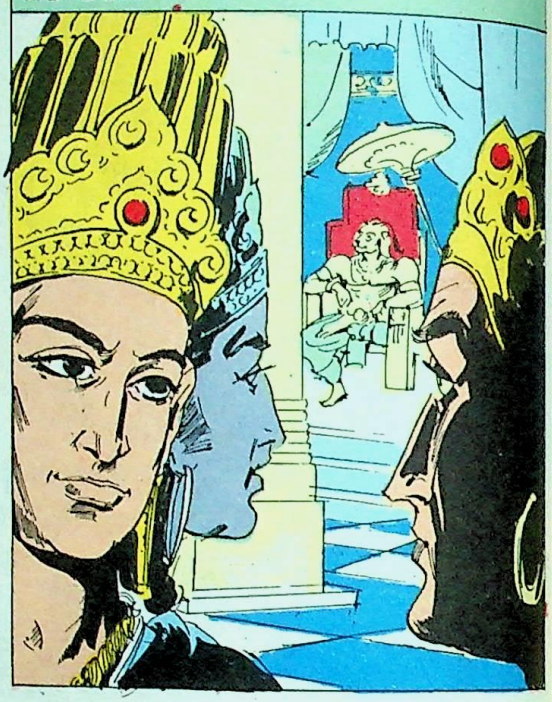
BRAHMA AND INDRA CAME TO PAY HOMAGE TO HIM.

BUT WERE WARY OF APPROACHING VISHNU IN THIS TERRIFYING ASPECT.



THEN BRAHMA WENT TO PRAHLAD WHO WAS STANDING NEARBY.

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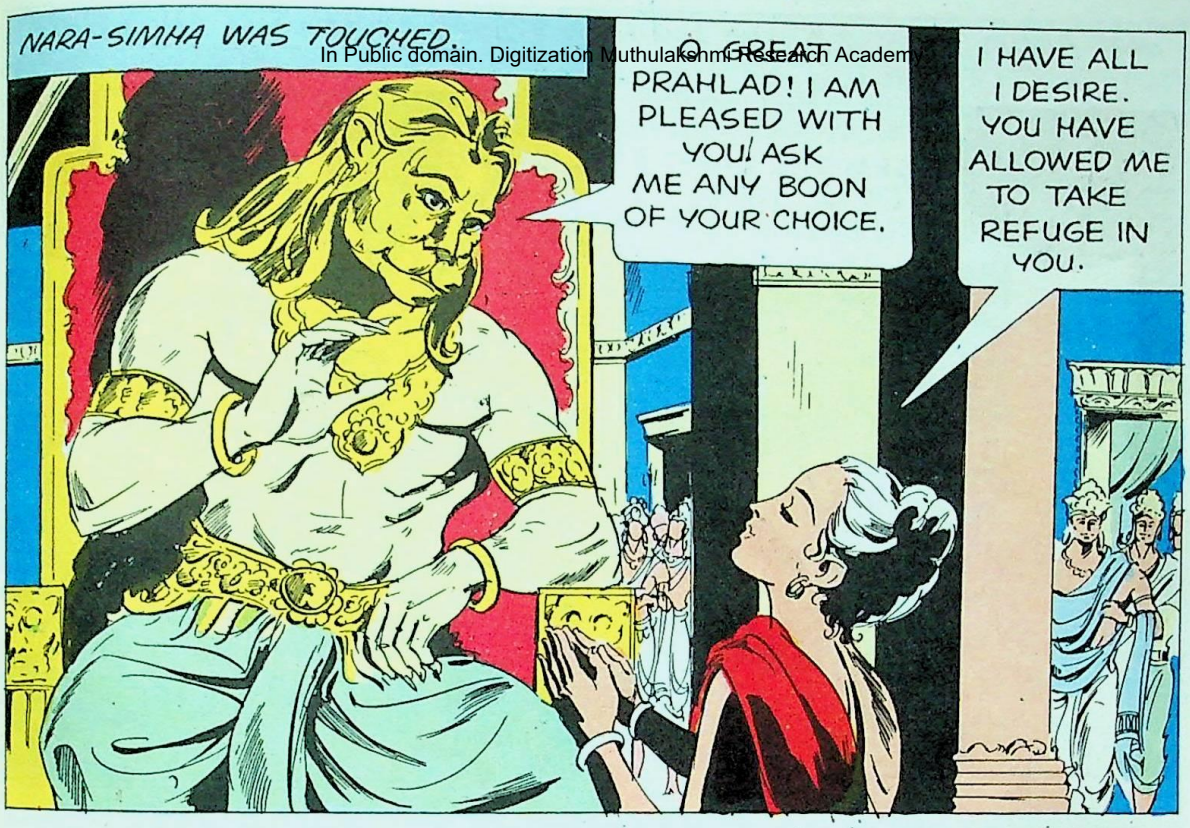

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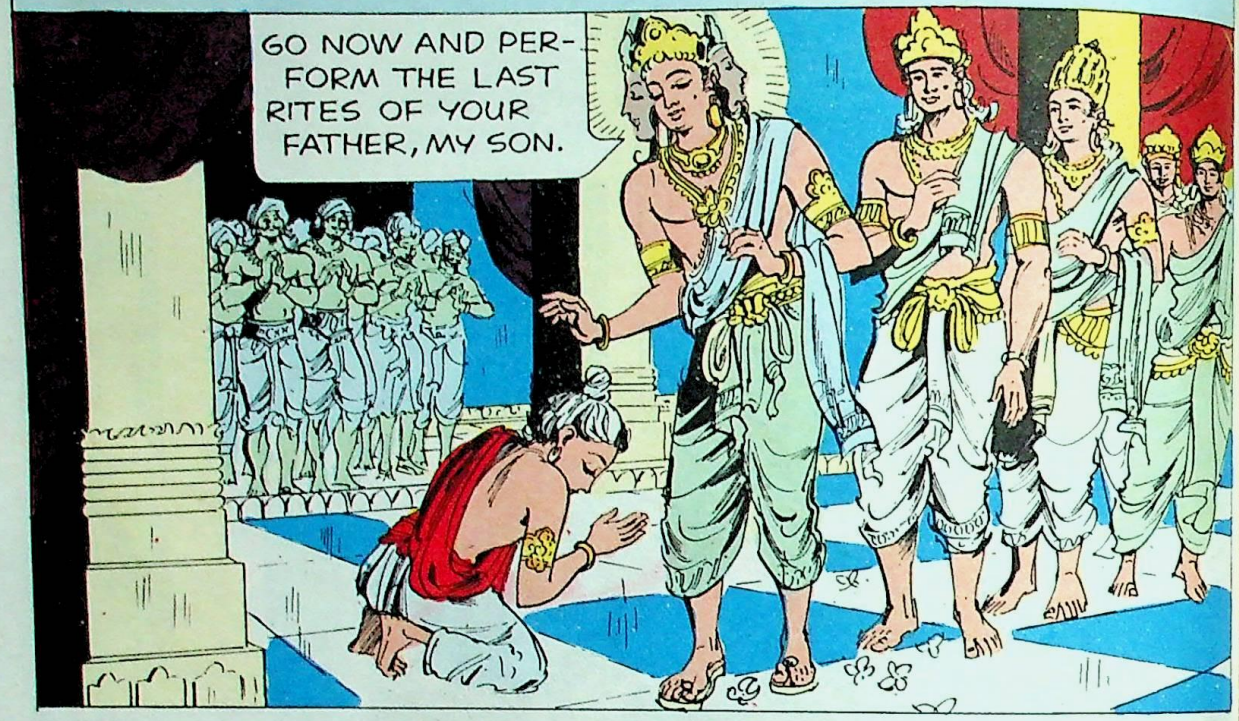
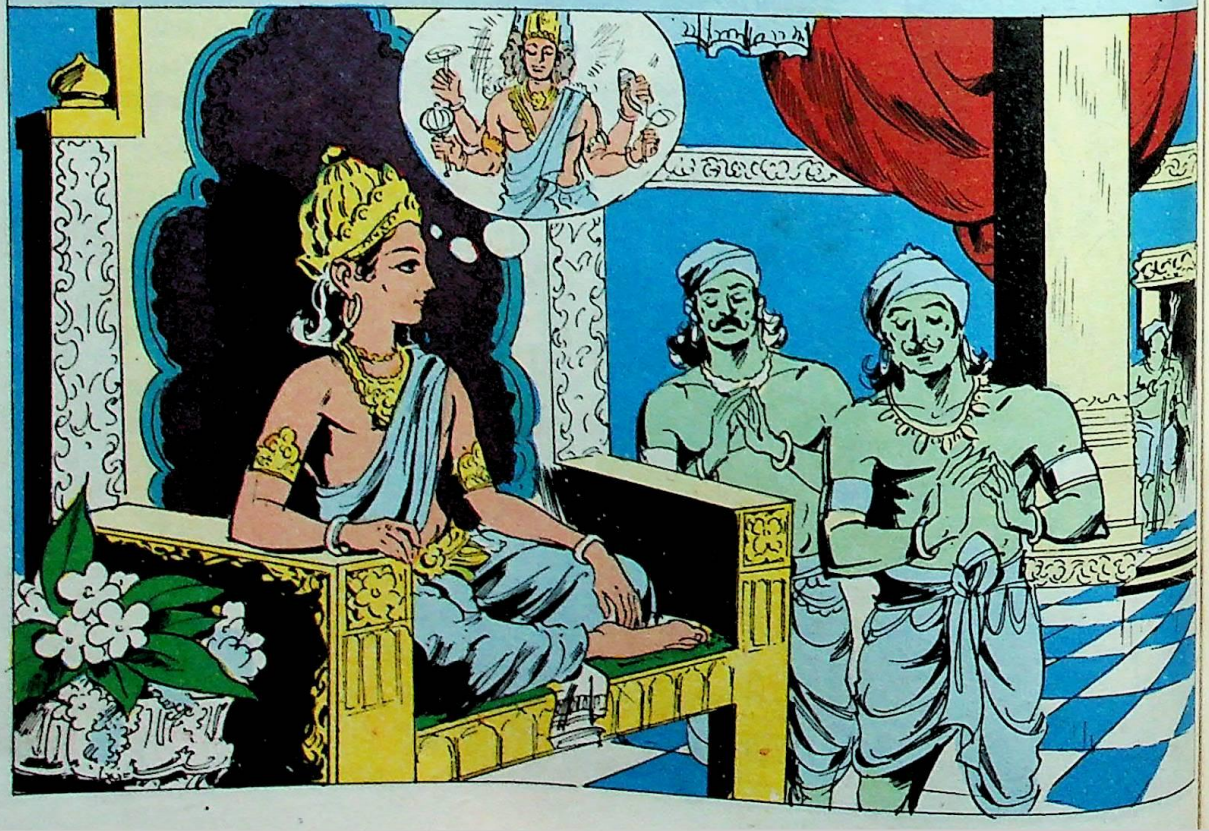
NARA-SIMHA VANISHED. AND PRAHLAD BOWED TO BRAHMA AND TO THE OTHER CELESTIALS.



AFTER THE LAST RITES OF HIS FATHER WERE OVER, THE GODS WITH THE HELP OF THE ASURAS INSTALLED PRAHLAD ON THE THRONE AS LORD OF THE ASURAS. AND HE RULED WISELY AND WELL FOR MANY YEARS.



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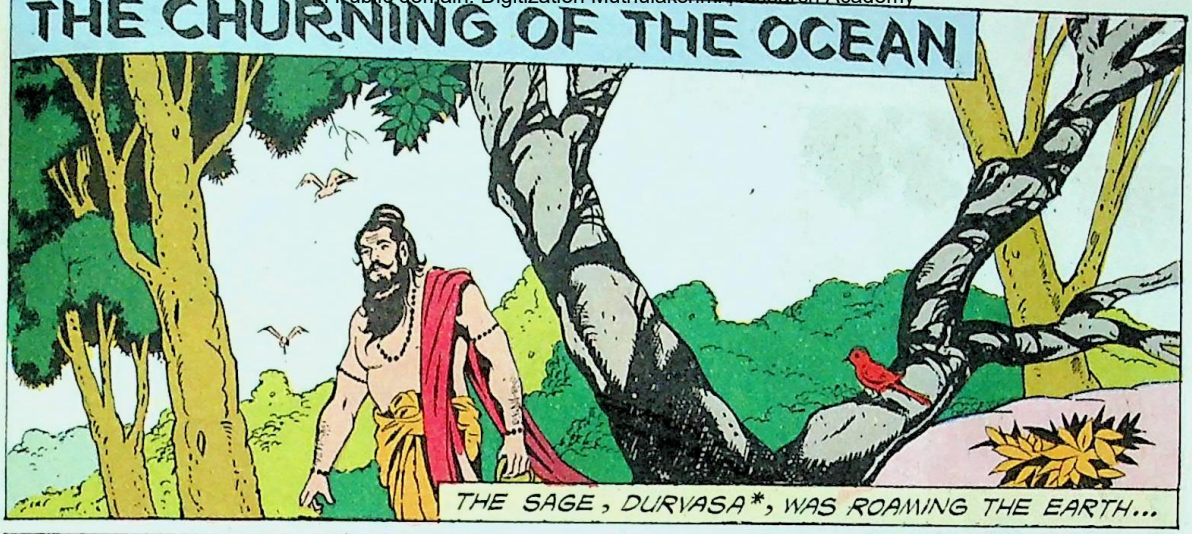
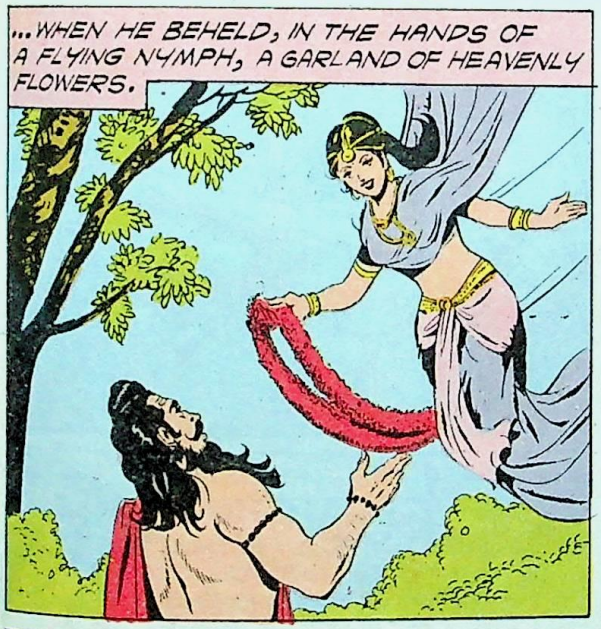
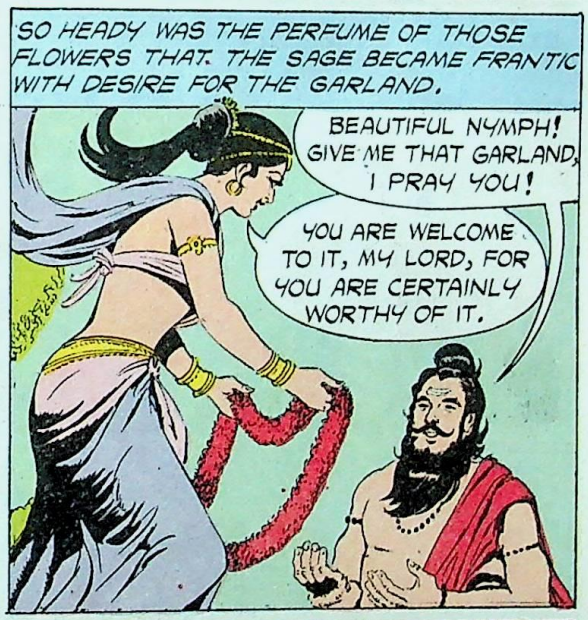
THE CHURNING OF THE OCEAN







* HE IS BELIEVED TO BE A PART REINCARNATION OF SHIVA

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IN THIS SITUATION, IT WAS THE ASURAS, THE ENEMIES OF THE DEVAS, WHO BENEFITED. THEY TAUNTED THE DEVAS.

YOU PROUD AND ARROGANT DEVAS! COME, FIGHT WITH US!

SO YOU HESITATE! WEAKLINGS!

THE DEVAS WERE FORCED TO ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE, THOUGH THEY WERE UNWILLING.

TAKE THAT!

AND THAT!

GREAT NUMBERS OF DEVAS WERE FELLED AND COULD NOT RISE AGAIN. THE REST, HEADED BY AGNI, THE GOD OF FIRE, FLED.

THEY DID NOT STOP TILL THEY CAME TO THE REGIONS OF BRAHMA.

OH, HOW WEAK AND TIRED I FEEL!

BRAHMA'S COURT WAS ON THE CREST OF THE SHINING MOUNT MERU. IT WAS FULL OF GRACEFUL TREES, FRAGRANT FLOWERS AND COOL STREAMS. BUT THE DEVAS WERE NOT SOOTHED EVEN BY THE SOFT BREEZE.

NOTHING INTERESTS ME ANY MORE, NOT EVEN THE MELODIOUS SINGING OF THE BIRDS!

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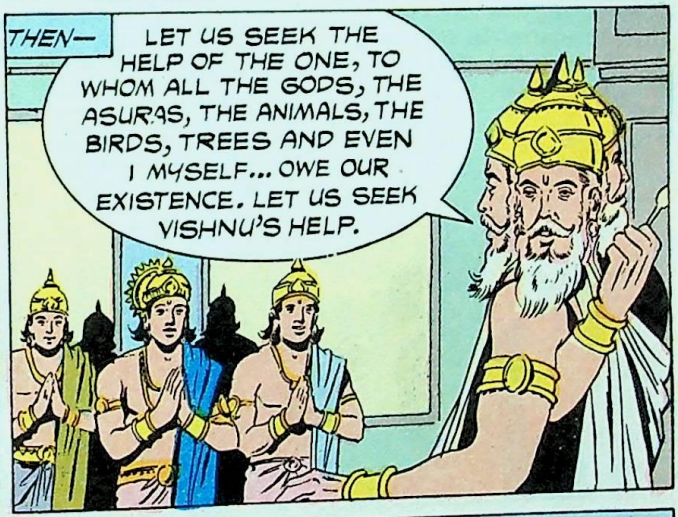

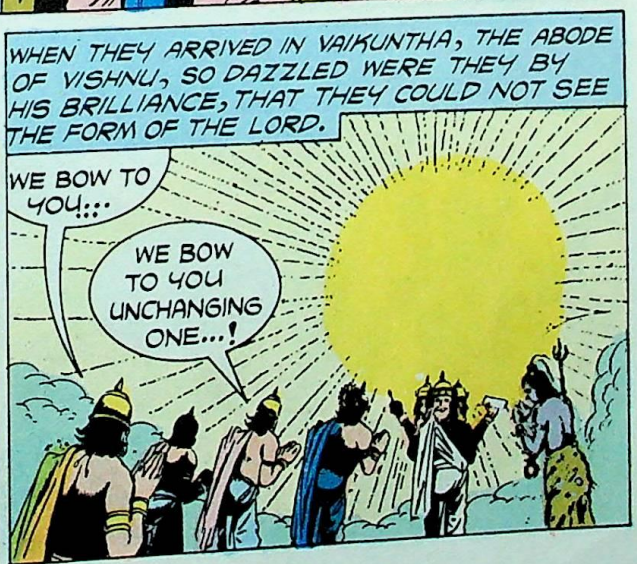

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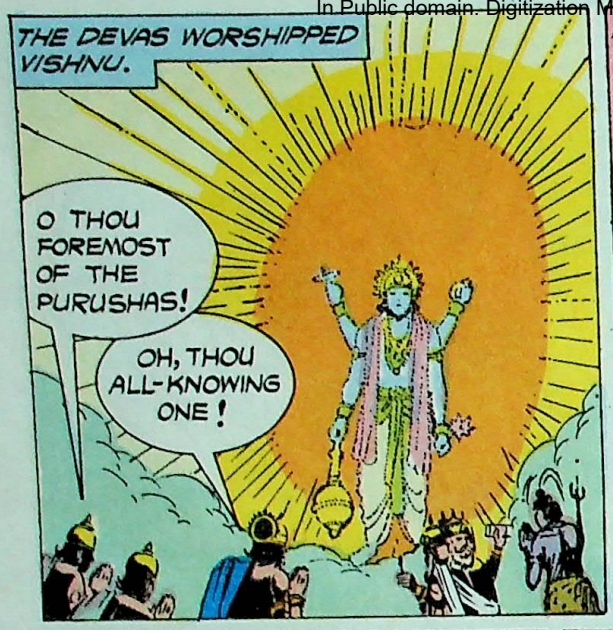

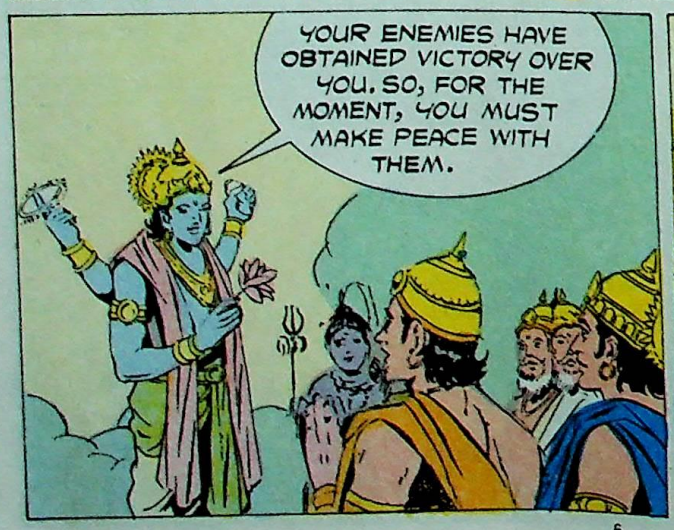

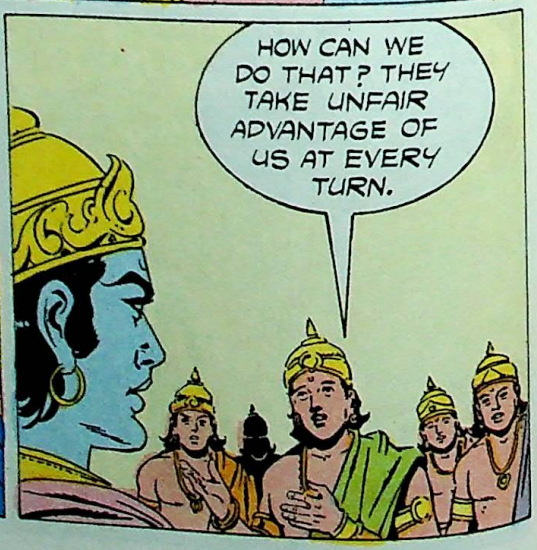

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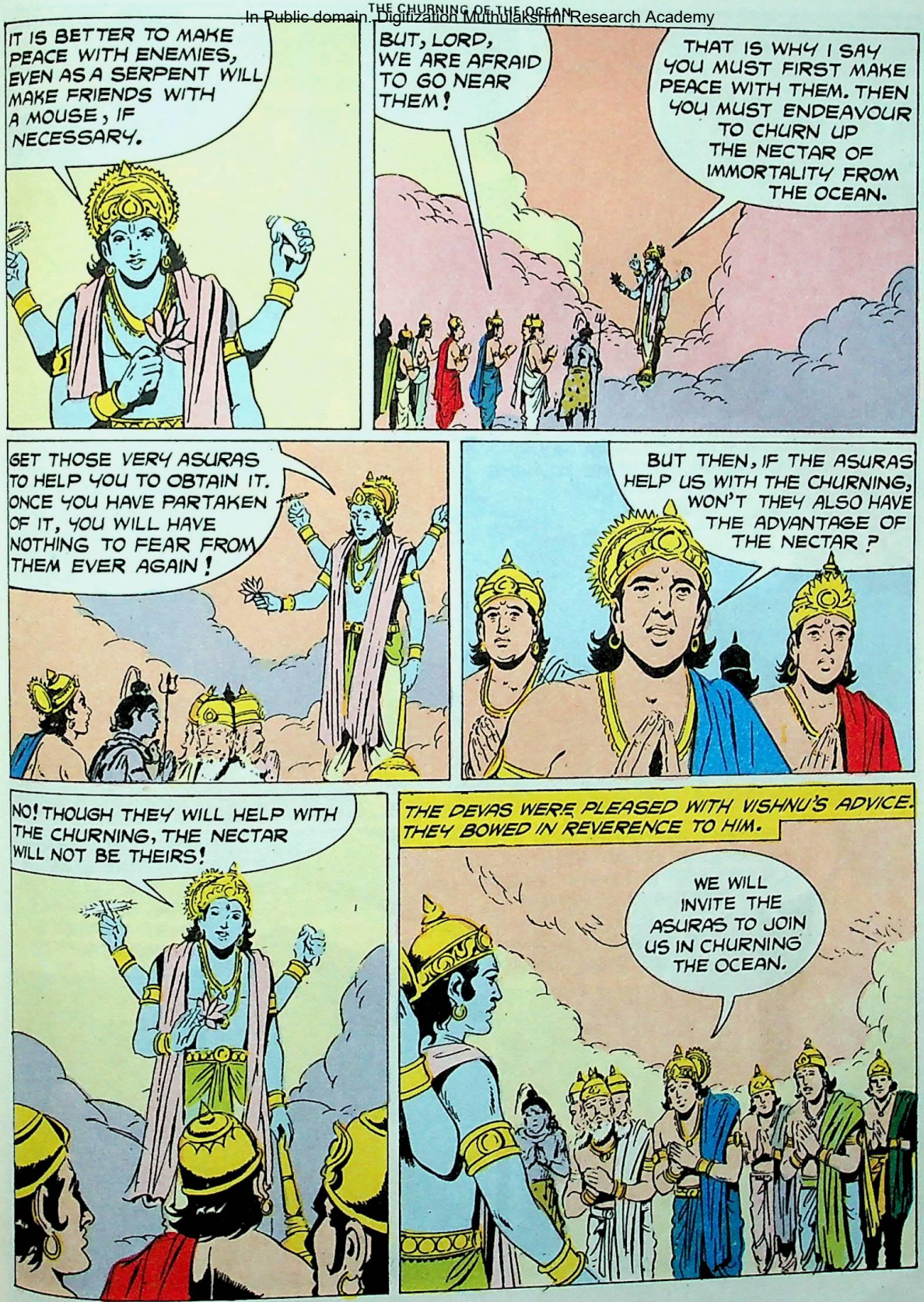

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THE DEVAS WENT TO BALI, THE KING OF THE ASURAS. HE WAS RESTING AFTER HAVING CONQUERED THE THREE WORLDS.

LOOK AT THOSE WEAKLINGS, BEREFT OF ARMOUR AND WEAPONS!

LET'S STRIKE THEM DOWN!

NO! DO NOT DRAW YOUR WEAPONS. IT IS TIME TO MAKE PEACE WITH OUR ENEMIES.

BESIDES THEY OBVIOUSLY HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY TO US. SOME SCHEME FOR OUR MUTUAL BENEFIT PERHAPS?

SPEAK! WHY HAVE YOU COME HERE, AT GREAT RISK TO YOURSELVES? HAVE YOU SOME PROPOSALS TO MAKE?

WE HAVE, O WISE AND ILLUSTRIOUS KING!

WELL, GO ON THEN.

FIRST TELL US— ARE YOU INTERESTED IN OBTAINING THE CELESTIAL NECTAR, THE DRINK THAT IMPARTS IMMORTALITY?

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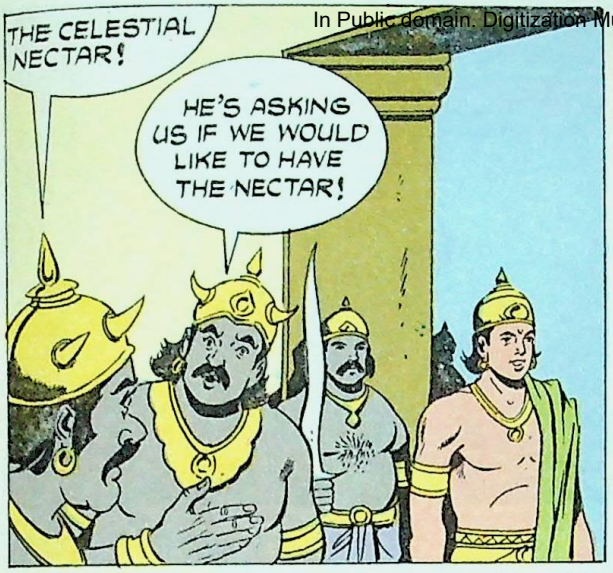

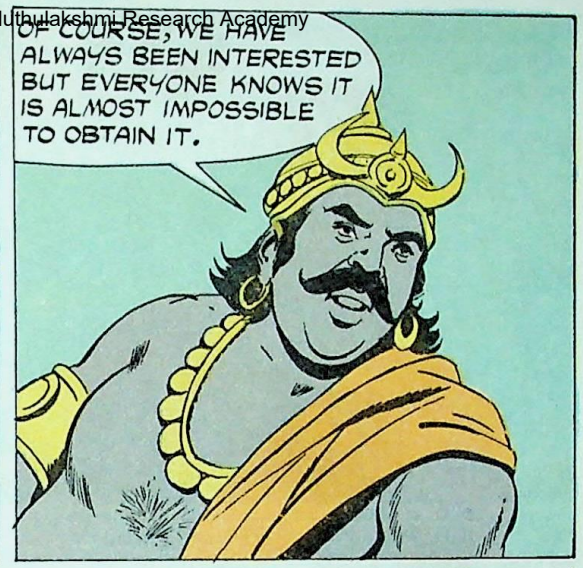

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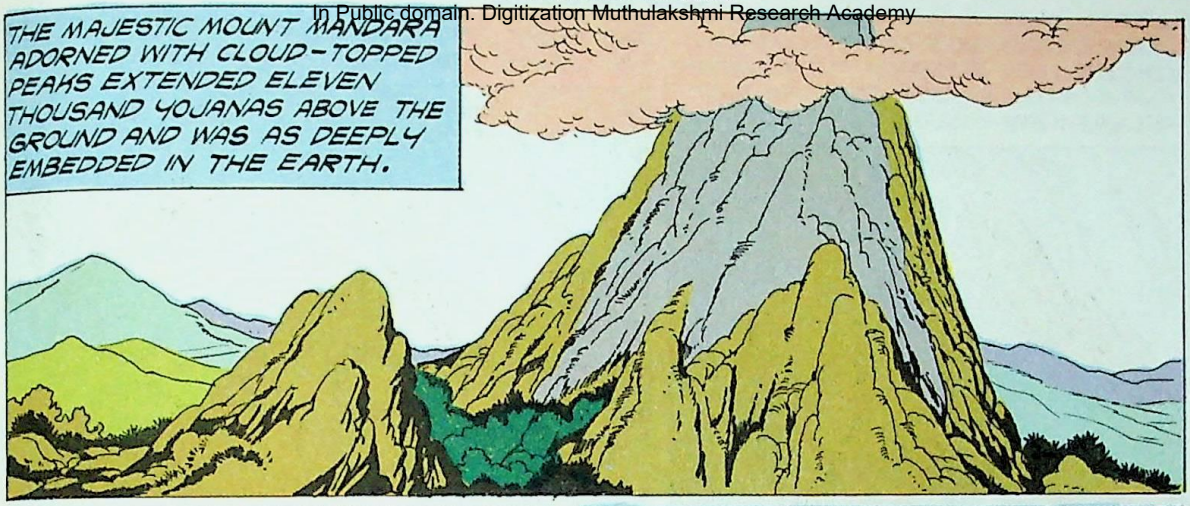

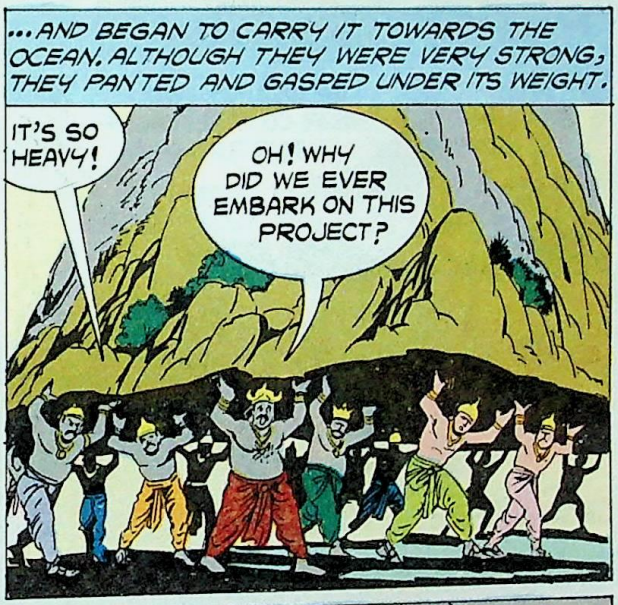

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THEN LORD VISHNU EFFORTLESSLY RAISED THE MOUNTAIN WITH ONE HAND...

...AND PLACED IT ON THE BACK OF GARUDA.

VISHNU HIMSELF THEN MOUNTED GARUDA AND PROCEEDED TOWARDS THE OCEAN OF MILK.

ON REACHING THERE, GARUDA GENTLY PLACED THE MOUNTAIN IN THE OCEAN...

...AND THEN FLEW AWAY. LORD VISHNU REMAINED BEHIND.

THEN THE DEVAS AND ASURAS WENT TO VASUKI, THE KING OF THE SNAKES.

O, VASUKI, COME HELP US TO CHURN THE MIGHTY OCEAN AND YOU SHALL ALSO PARTAKE OF THE NECTAR.

CERTAINLY! I WILL COME AND ACT AS A CHURNING ROPE.

SO VASUKI WENT WITH THEM AND ALLOWED THEM TO BIND HIM ROUND MOUNT MANDARA.

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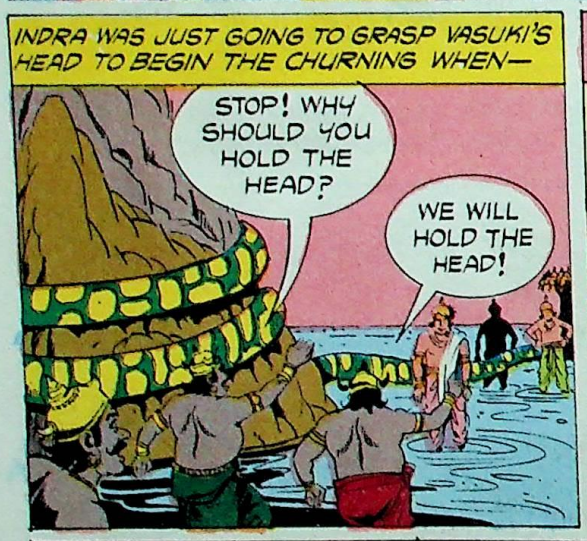

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BUT ALAS! THERE WAS NO SUPPORT UNDER MOUNT MANDARA AND BECAUSE OF ITS IMMENSE WEIGHT, IT GRADUALLY SLIPPED DOWN TO THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN.

THE MOUNTAIN WON'T TURN!

THE MOUNTAIN IS SLIPPING FROM OUR GRASP!

NO! IT IS SLIPPING DOWN DEEPER AND DEEPER.

HELP! HELP!

ONCE AGAIN VISHNU CAME TO THEIR AID. ASSUMING THE FORM OF A GIGANTIC TORTOISE, ALMOST LIKE A HUGE ISLAND, VISHNU DIVED TO THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN...

...AND HELD MOUNT MANDARA UP ON HIS BACK.

BEGIN THE CHURNING!

THROUGH THE GRACE OF LORD VISHNU, THE DEVAS AND THE ASURAS AND VASUKI FELT A RENEWED STRENGTH WITHIN THEM AND THEY CHURNED FASTER AND FASTER.

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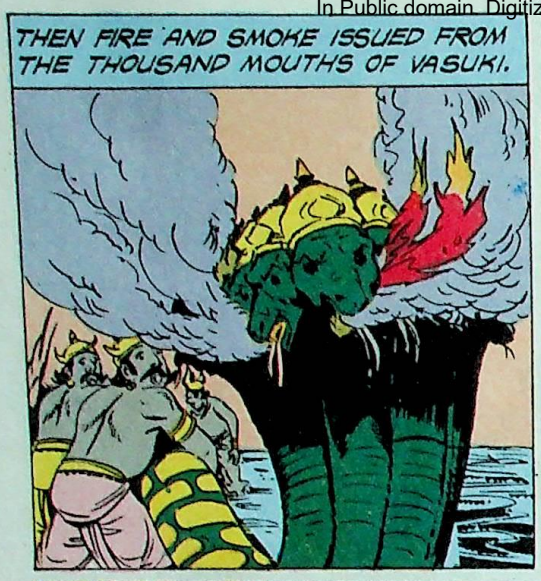

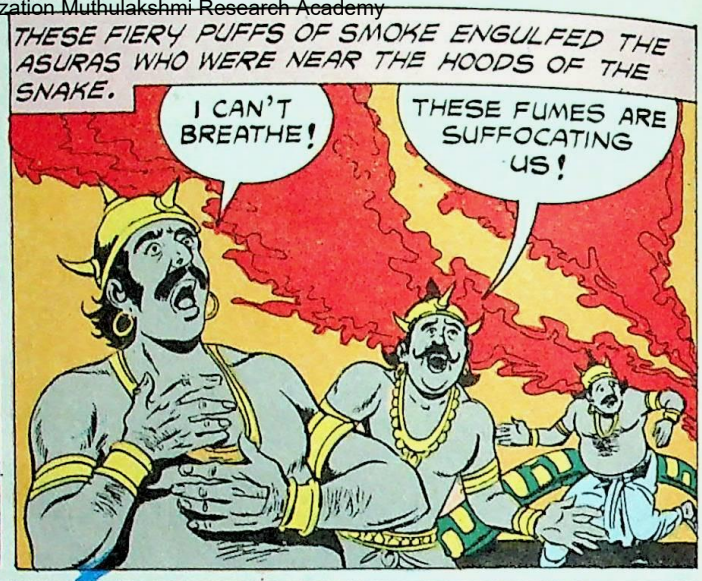

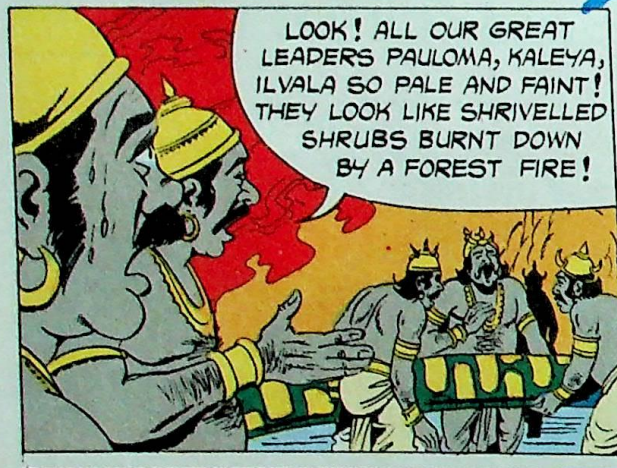

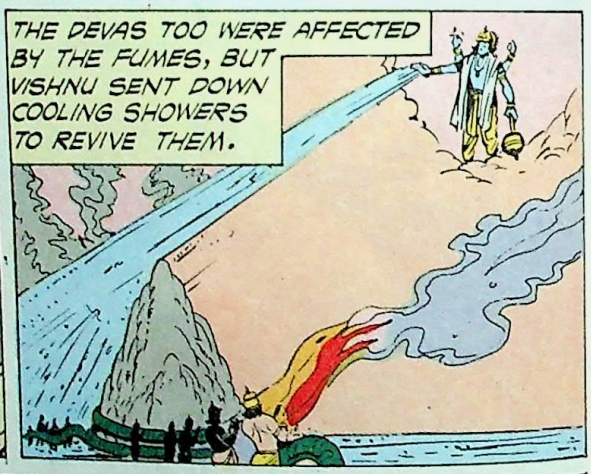

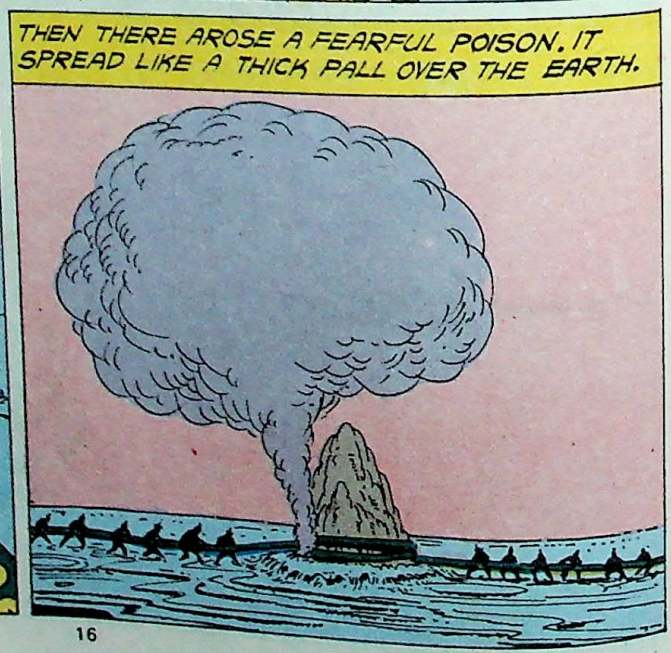

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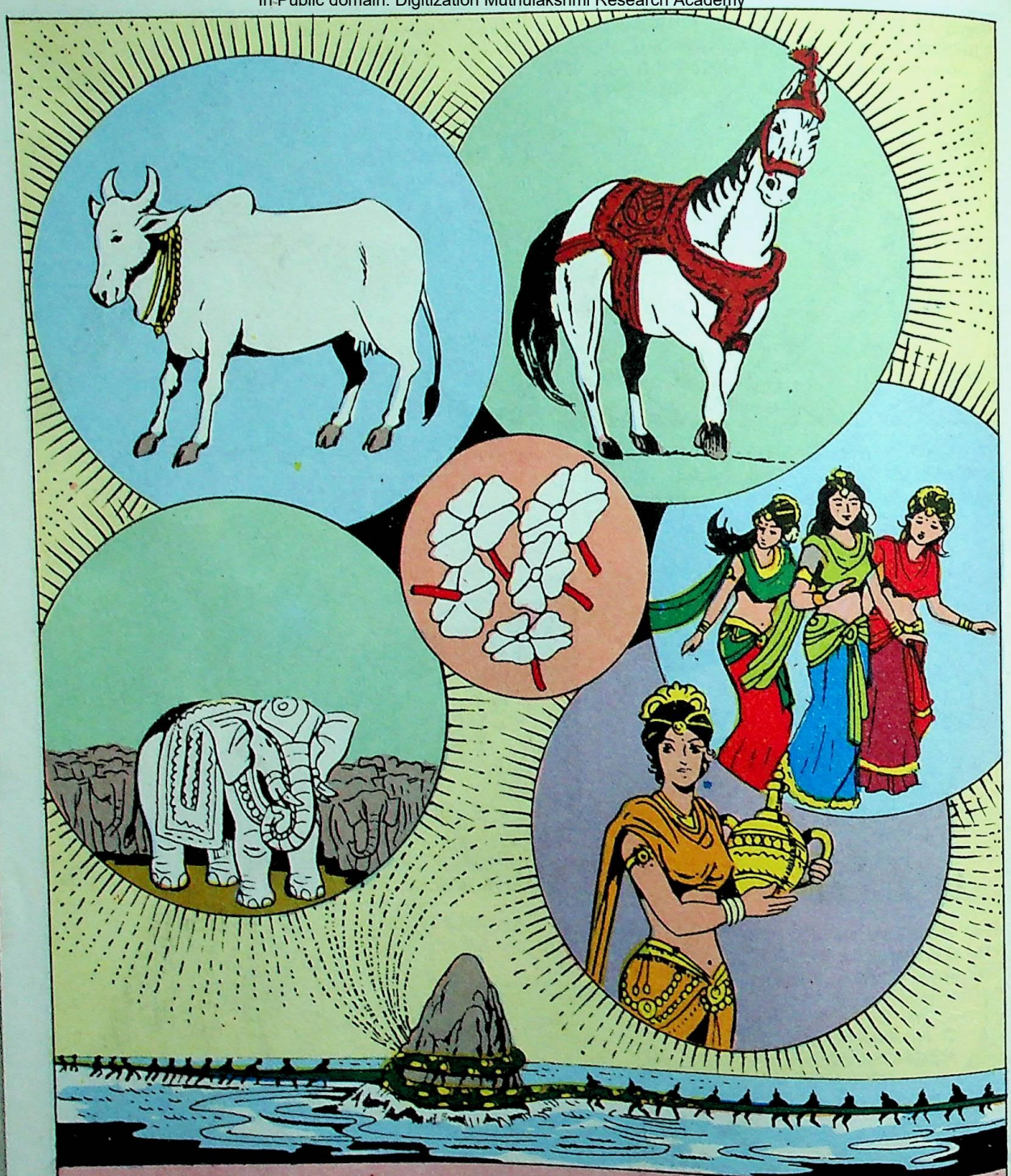

THE DEVAS AND ASURAS RESUMED THEIR CHURNING. BEFORE LONG THERE AROSE FROM THE OCEAN SURABHI, THE DIVINE COW, UCHCHHAISHRAVA, THE HORSE WHITE AS THE MOON AND AIRAVATA, THE WHITE ELEPHANT WITH FOUR TUSKS. THEY WERE FOLLOWED BY A BEVY OF BEAUTIFUL APSARAS. LATER EMERGED THE CELESTIAL PARIJATA TREE AND VARUNI THE GODDESS OF WINE, ROLLING HER INTOXICATING EYES.

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THEN SHREE AROSE FROM THE OCEAN, GRACEFUL AND EFFULGENT.

HER BEAUTY WAS SUCH AS TO STIR THE MINDS OF THE DEVAS AND ASURAS. ALL OF THEM WERE ANXIOUS TO BE OF SERVICE TO HER.

GANGA AND OTHER HOLY RIVERS BROUGHT WATER IN GOLDEN JARS FOR HER ABLUTIONS.

VASANTA, THE GOD OF SPRING, BROUGHT FRUITS AND FLOWERS.

THE APSARAS BEGAN TO DANCE FOR HER.

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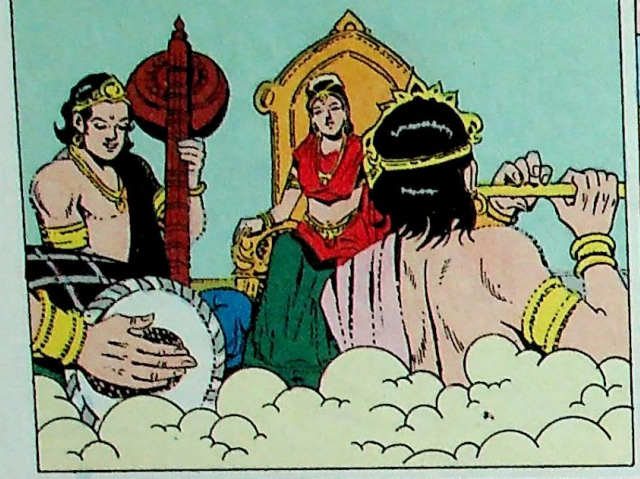
THE CLOUDS RAINED MUSIC FROM A VARIETY OF INSTRUMENTS.



VARUNA, LORD OF THE WATERS, BROUGHT HER THE CELEBRATED VAIJAYANTI GARLAND.

WHEN THE AUSPICIOUS CEREMONIES WERE COMPLETED, SHREE MOVED HERE AND THERE LOOKING FOR THE ONE WHO IS THE REPOSITORY OF ALL GOOD QUALITIES.

IN THE END, SHE CHOSE LORD VISHNU, WHO IS PERFECT IN EVERY WAY.

SHE PLACED THE BEAUTIFUL VAIJAYANTI GARLAND ROUND HIS NECK.

VISHNU, LORD OF THE THREE WORLDS, ACCEPTED HER.

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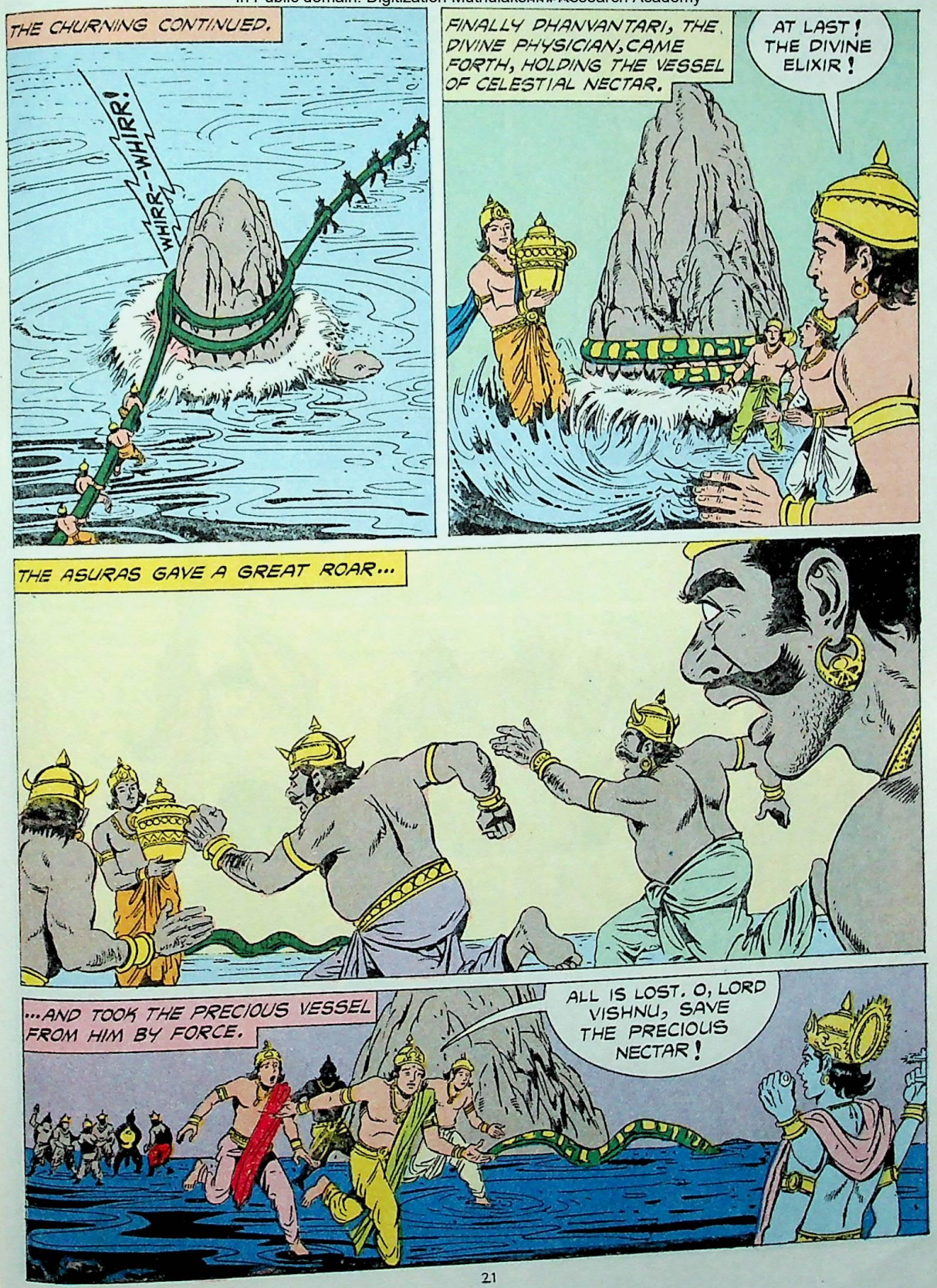

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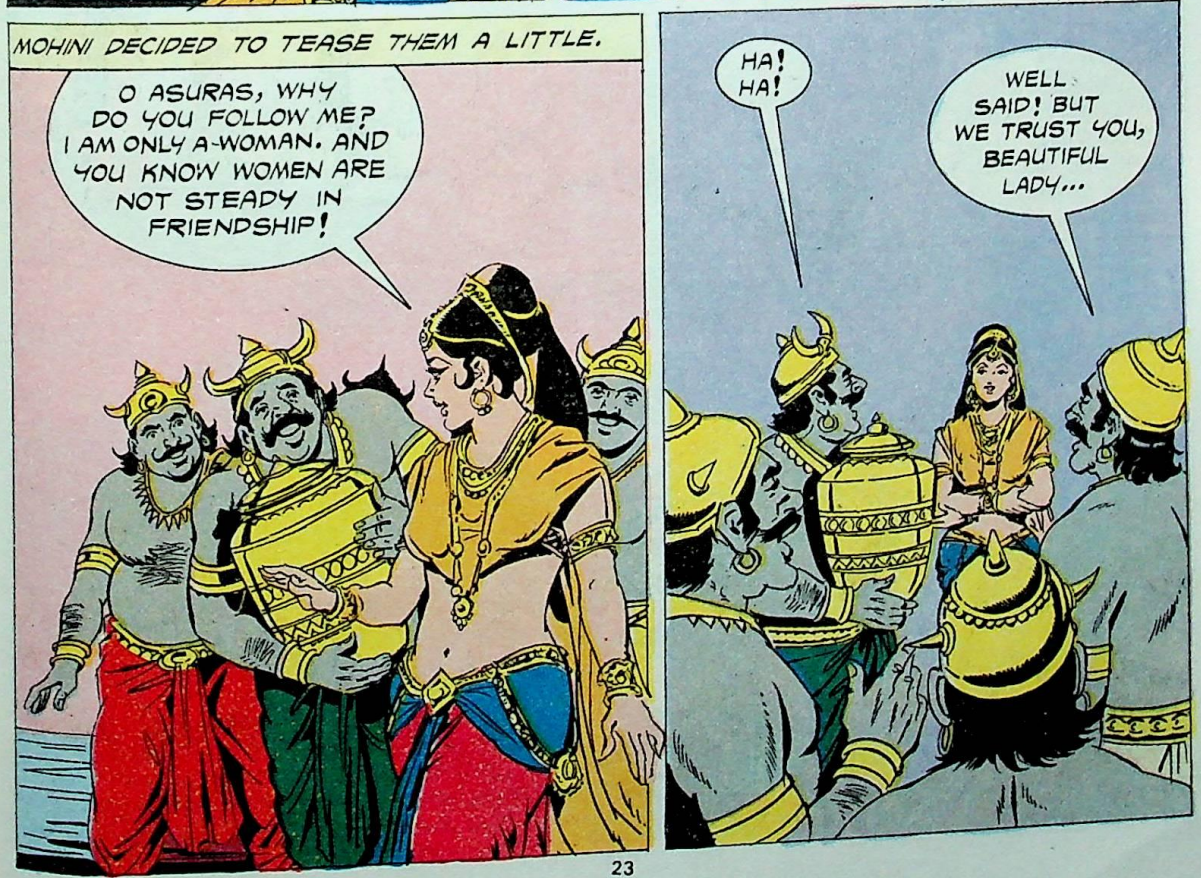

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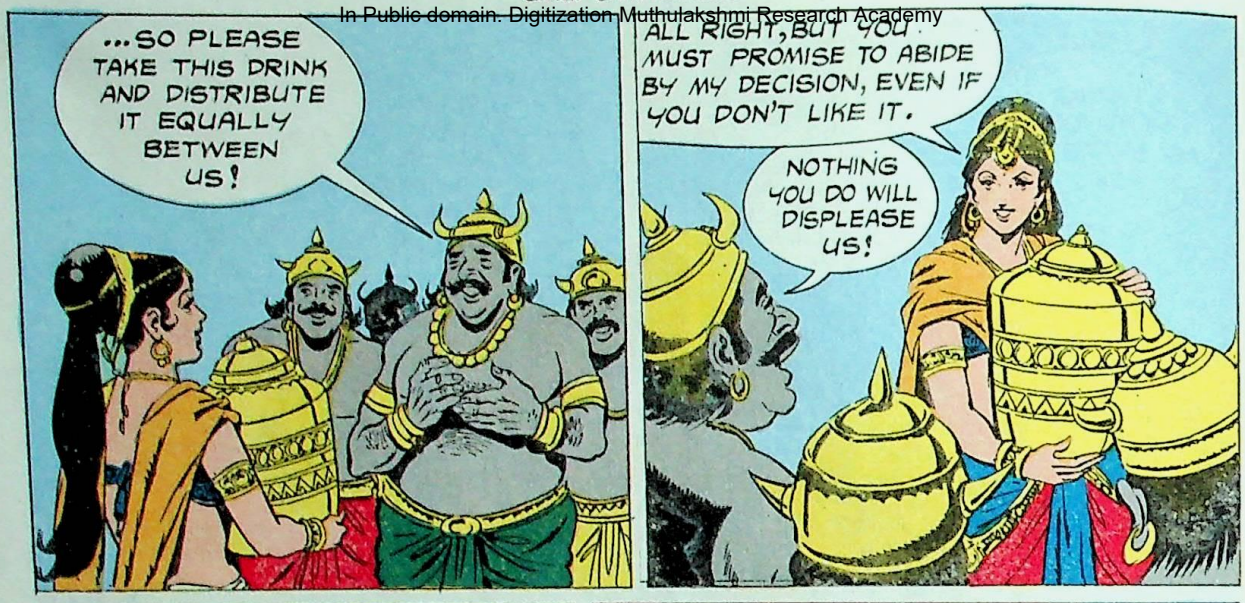

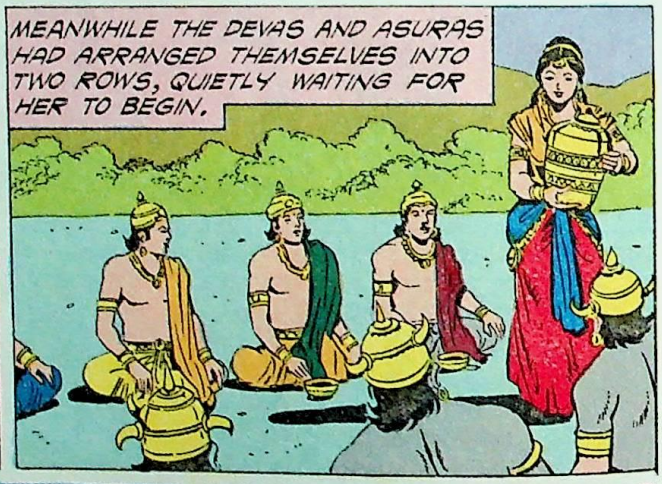

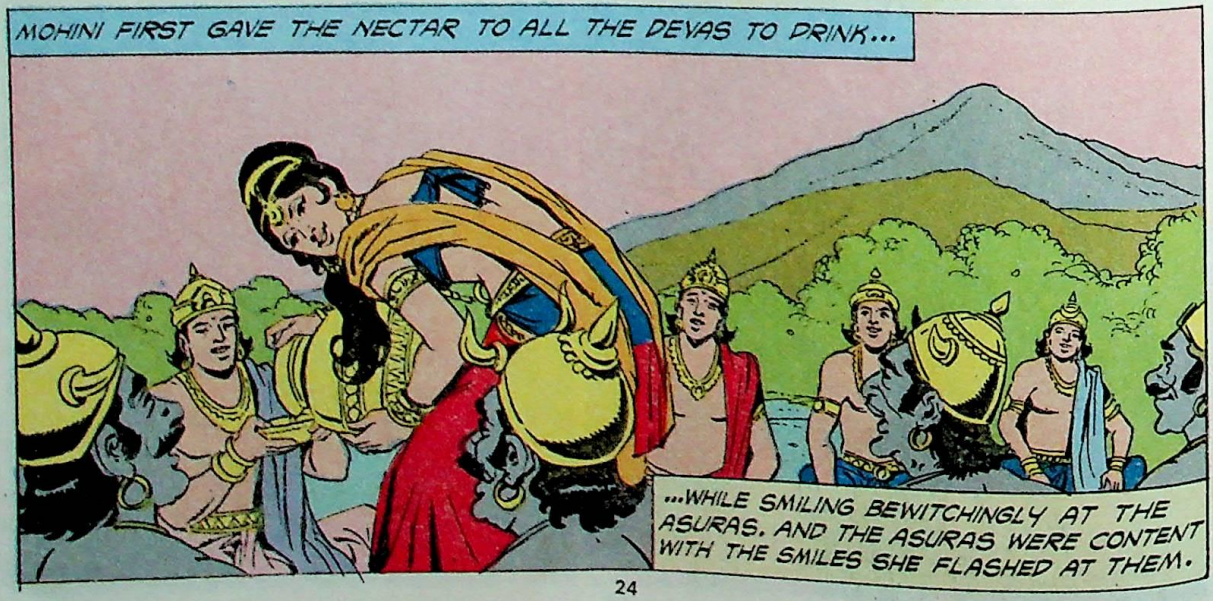

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BUT ONE OF THE ASURAS WHOSE NAME WAS RAHU, BECAME SUSPICIOUS.

SHE HAS NO INTENTION OF GIVING US THE NECTAR!

SO RAHU ASSUMED THE FORM OF DEVA AND QUIETLY CROSSED OVER.

FORTUNATELY, SURYA, THE SUN, AND SOMA, THE MOON, WERE WATCHFUL.

WAIT! HE'S NOT A DEVA!

NO, NO, I KNOW HIM! HE IS THE ASURA, RAHU!

THE NECTAR HAD BARELY REACHED RAHU'S THROAT. INSTANTLY VISHNU HURLED HIS CHAKRA AT HIM TO CUT OFF THE WELL-ADORNED HEAD OF THE ASURA.

AS THE HUGE HEADLESS TRUNK OF THE ASURA FELL DOWN, IT CAUSED THE EARTH TO QUAKE AND THE MOUNTAINS TO RUMBLE.

AND THE SEVERED HEAD OF THE ASURA ROSE TO THE SKY ROARING HORRIBLY.

TO THIS DAY THERE IS A DEADLY FEUD BETWEEN THE HEAD OF RAHU AND THE SUN AND THE MOON AND HE SWALLOWS THEM UP AT REGULAR INTERVALS, CAUSING ECLIPSES.

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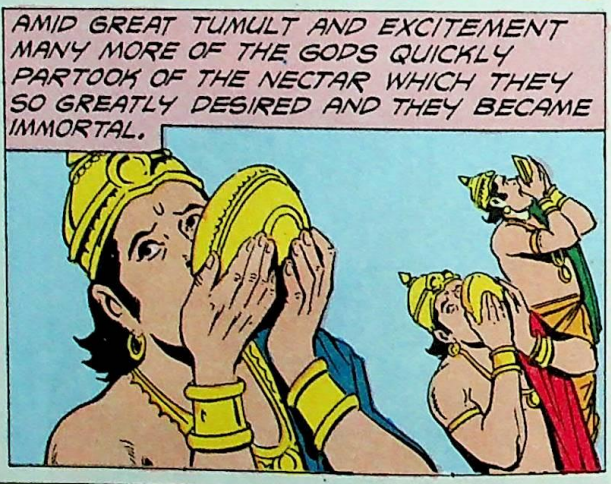

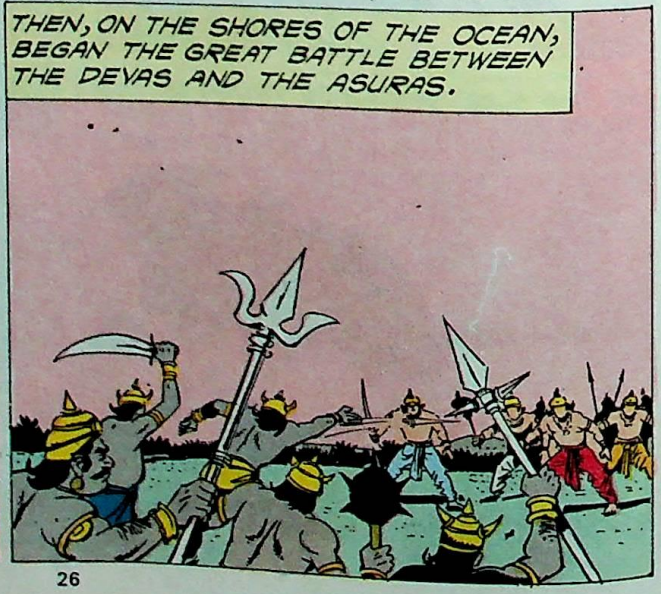

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SHARP POINTED JAVELINS AND LANCES WERE HURLED AT THE ASURAS.

THE ASURAS DIED IN LARGE NUMBERS THEIR HEADS ADORNED WITH BRIGHT GOLD FELL ON THE FIELD OF BATTLE.

WAR CRIES AND CRIES OF PAIN INTERMINGLED.

ATTACK!

PIERCE!

CUT!

KILL! KILL!

AT THE HEIGHT OF THIS FIERCE BATTLE, VISHNU ENTERED THE FIELD.

THEY SEEM EVENLY MATCHED. THE DEVAS NEED MY HELP.

AS SOON AS HE THOUGHT OF IT, HIS OWN INCOMPARABLE DISCUS, THE SHINING SUDARSHANA CHAKRA, CAME THROUGH THE SKY.

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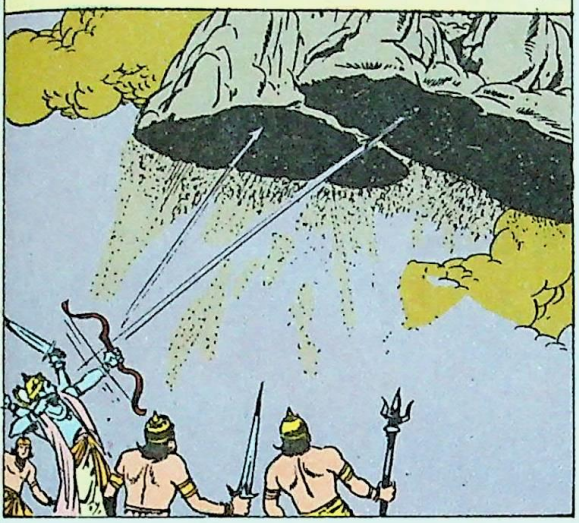
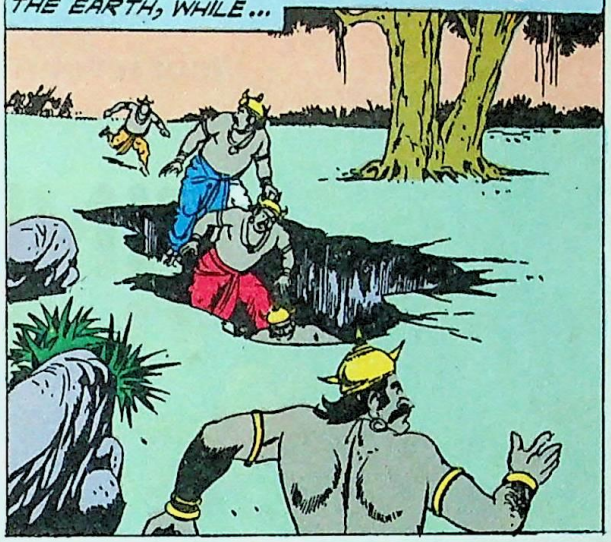
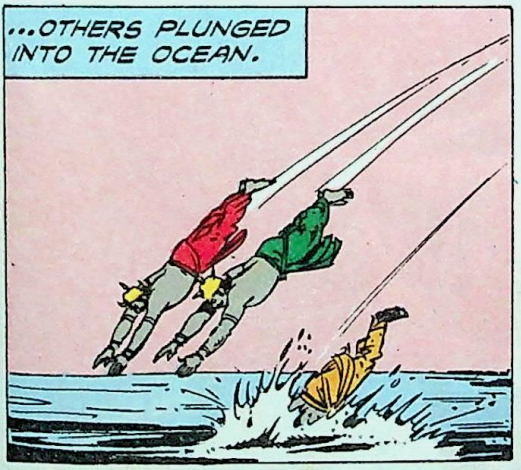
AGAIN THE DIVINE VISHNU CAME TO THE AID OF THE DEVAS. SHOOTING GOLDEN-HEADED ARROWS AT THE FALLING MOUNTAINS, HE REDUCED THEM TO DUST.



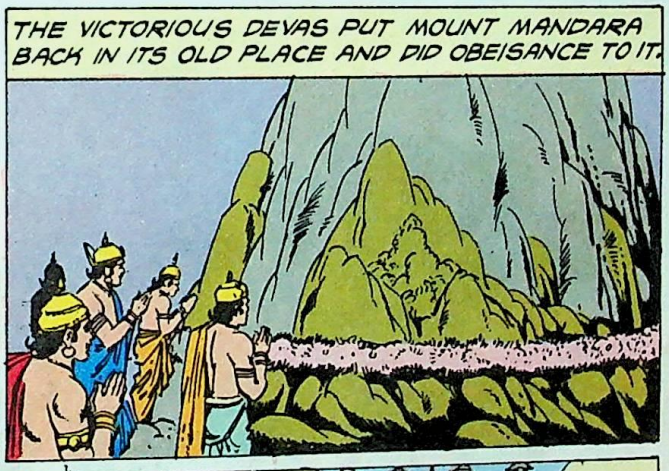
THE ASURAS WERE DEFEATED. THEY COULD FIGHT BACK NO MORE. SHRIEKING LOUDLY, SOME OF THEM ENTERED THE BOWELS OF THE EARTH, WHILE...



...OTHERS PLUNGED INTO THE OCEAN.



THE VICTORIOUS DEVAS PUT MOUNT MANDARA BACK IN ITS OLD PLACE AND DID OBEISANCE TO IT.



THEN THE SKIES RESOUNDED WITH JOYOUS SHOUTS AS THE DEVAS, HAVING BEEN RENDERED PERFECT AFTER DRINKING THE CELESTIAL NECTAR, RETURNED TO THEIR OWN ABODES.

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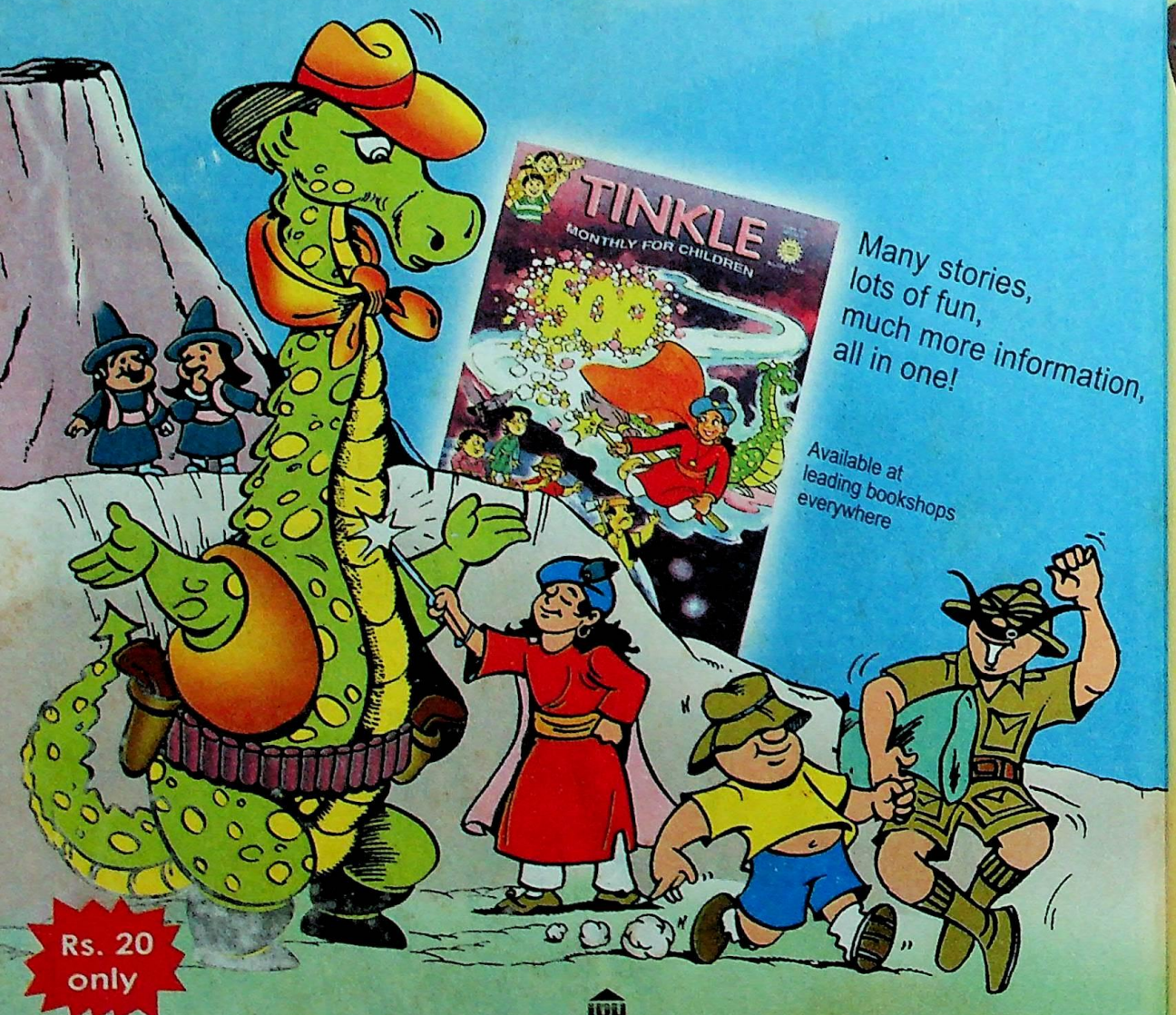

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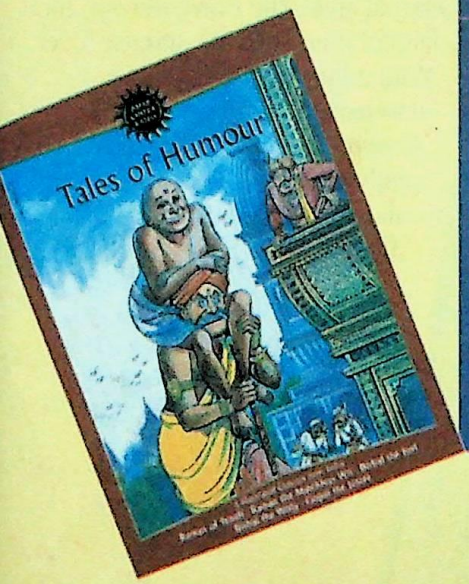

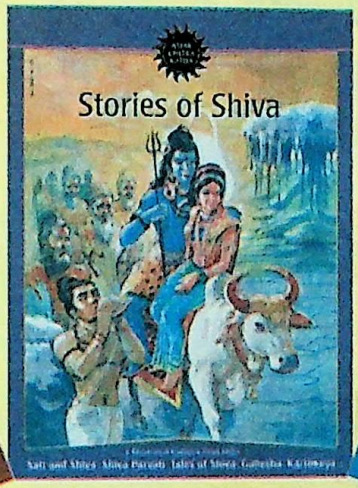

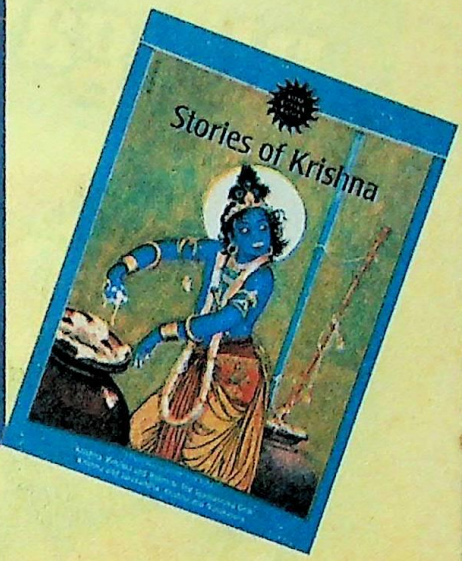

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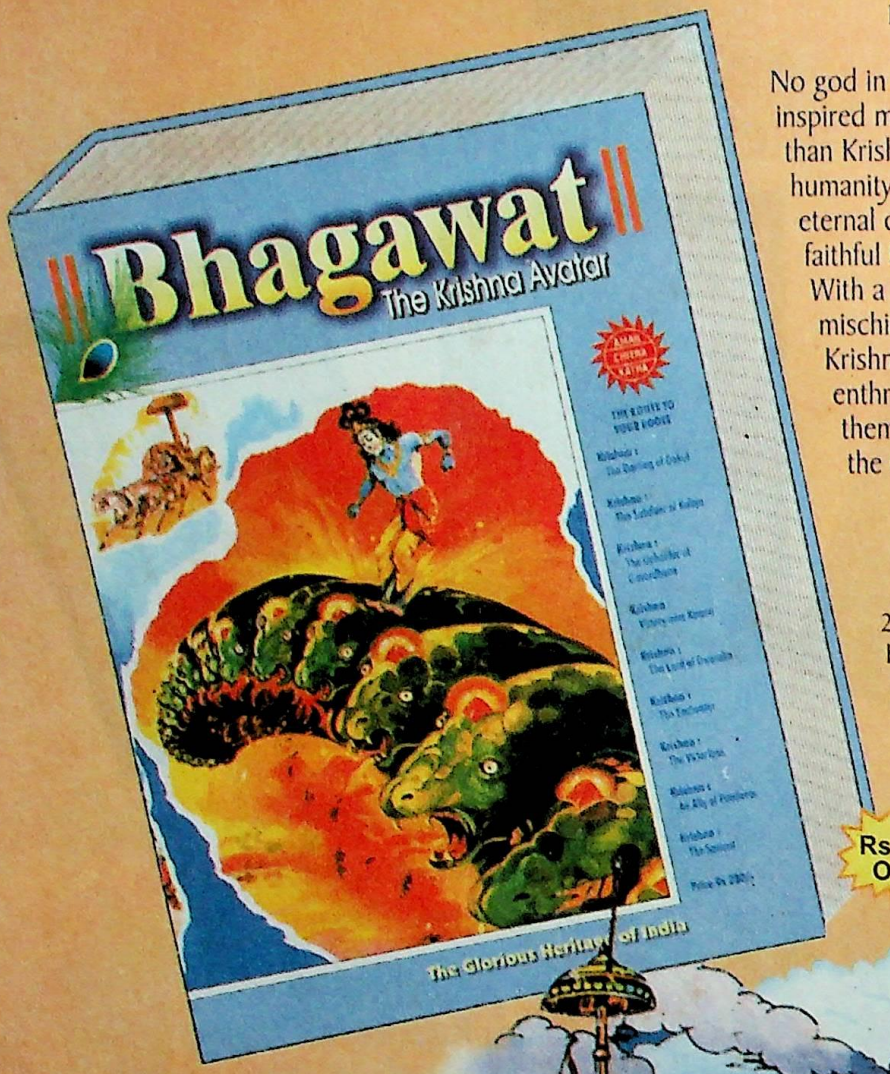

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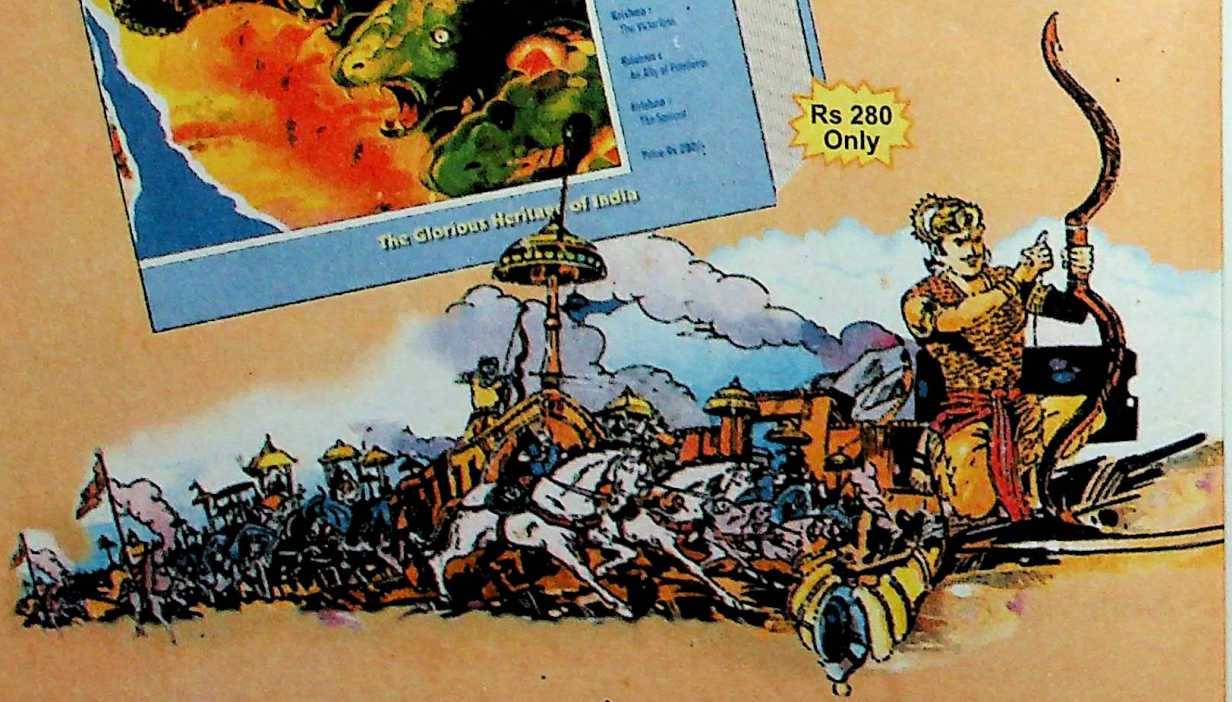

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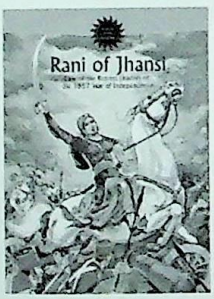

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